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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Palestinian Negotiators Meet in Cairo

Israeli Delegation Arrives

NC1403112195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—The delegation participating in the 12th round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations arrived in Cairo this morning chaired by Joel Zinger, legal adviser at the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

During this round of negotiations, which will last two days, the two sides will discuss the concept, nature, and number of members of the Palestinian legislative council, which is supposed to be elected, as well as its legislative and executive privileges.

Palestinian Delegation Arrives

NC1403064695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, self-government minister in the Palestinian Authority, arrived in Cairo tonight at the head of a delegation to participate in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that will begin in Cairo tomorrow. In an arrival statement he said that during the current round of talks the Palestinian delegation will submit a draft agreement on the issues that were negotiated regarding the elections throughout the past year. He voiced his hope that these negotiations will be completed as quickly as possible in implementation of the agreement reached during the latest meeting between 'Arafat and Peres last week. The agreement set 15 June as the date for completing the phased agreement that includes redeployment of the Israeli forces, the legal review, transferring the rest of the powers, and holding the elections.

'Urayqat said that during previous rounds of talks the Palestinian delegation submitted six working papers that included a comparison between the Palestinian and Israeli stances on the points that must be implemented in the phased agreement.

Concluding his statement, 'Urayqat said that the next three months will be crucial for the peace process and will show if Israel wants peace and if it wants to comply with implementing the signed agreements. He called for a unified Arab stance, especially as Israel is seeking to obstruct the peace process on every track and is trying to rush to normalize ties with the Arab world. He noted that a unified Arab stance in the next stage will be important.

Singer, 'Urayqat Open Talks

NC1403134695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—A new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza opened here this afternoon. The Palestinian side is led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, while the Israeli side is led by Yo'el Singer, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's legal adviser. The heads of the two delegations held a private meeting before the negotiations, which will last for two days.

Israeli chief delegate Singer stated that this round of talks will be active and focus on issues relating to the elections. He added: But this time we have a target date of the end of June to hold these elections.

The head of the Israeli delegation said: We are trying to reach a draft agreement on elections before the date set for the end of June. He expressed his hope that agreement will be reached on parallel negotiating channels, such as on redeployment and achieving security as soon as possible.

The head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, said that during the previous round of talks the delegation submitted six papers and asked the Israeli side to answer them. They deal with international monitoring of the elections, the structure and nature of the council, and the election of the Palestinian Authority head separate from the council.

This is the 12th round of Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Elections Participation Discussed

JN1403153795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yo'el Singer, head of the Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on elections, has asserted that Israel will not object to the participation of any Palestinian party in the coming legislative council elections.

Shortly before holding a closed session with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations, Singer expressed hope that an agreement would be reached on holding the elections at the date set for them.

'Urayqat Comments on Talks

JN1503100395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, in Cairo, by unidentified correspondent in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Good morning Dr. Sa'ib.

['Urayqat] Good morning.

[Correspondent] Sir, yesterday you held a round of talks with the Israeli side. Is there anything new? Was any progress made regarding the agreement on conducting legislative elections and redeploying the Israeli occupation troops outside the populated areas?

['Urayqat] Actually, the new thing is that June was set as a time ceiling. This means the implementation of the phased agreement has been delayed for one year. As you know elections are not part of the agreement. Elections are a component and an integral part of the phased agreement, which includes redeployment outside the West Bank's populous areas, revision of laws, and the handing over of powers in the West Bank. Therefore, we tried this time to end discussion of the points which should be agreed upon and included in the phased agreement on elections. Yesterday, we received some answers from the Israeli side regarding proposals we had made in the previous round. There was nothing new. We told the Israeli side that we should jointly draft the points on which agreement must be reached. Today, we hope to continue doing this and we hope that we will embark on joint drafting.

[Correspondent] In most cases, our negotiations with Israeli delegations lead to nothing new. How long will this continue to be the case?

['Urayqat] This is what I have just said. If the deadline set for the beginning or middle of June to agree on the second leg of the agreement expires, I think the entire agreement will be prone to collapse.

[Correspondent] And what then?

['Urayqat] In fact this is a very serious issue. As you have noted His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has made many efforts on the Arab and international levels. These extensive visits to the Gaza Strip by the U.S. secretary of state, Turkish prime minister, and the British prime minister; the meetings his excellency the president holds with Arab leaders; and the messages he addresses to the international community, world leaders, and the UN secretary general are all part of an endeavor to explain the dangers inherent in the peace process collapse. The president asked for international assistance to help the peace process succeed. The Israeli side should not continue its procrastination, blocking, and implementation of policies that are in no way related to the peace process, not only on the Palestinian-Israeli track. For example, the closure of the territories is an extortion. Perpetuation of settlement activity means undermining the bases of the peace process. As for Lebanon, the imposition of the Israeli naval blockade is a piracy. Regarding Egypt, [Israel's] abstention from signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is a violation of law. Israel should, if it is seeking genuine peace in the region, be a state under the law, not above the law.

[Correspondent] The Jordanian-Israeli track seems to see great success. News agencies report that there is be a possible success on the Syrian-Israeli track. Do you think this may affect the Palestinian-Israeli track?

['Urayqat] No, I do not think so. I believe the Palestinian track is the key to the region's peace process. Regardless of any developments on Arab tracks, I believe the collapse of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track will mean the collapse of the peace process on all tracks. Therefore, we want the peace process to succeed but in conformity with the bases stipulated in the terms of reference of this process, including international resolutions 242 and 338 and the inadmissibility of the occupation of the lands of others by force. We should seek to establish these facts. I would like to say that Arab states should address a clear message to Israel to the effect that these attempts to jump through hoops to normalize relations with the Arab world, and the attempts to bypass the Palestinian track, will not succeed. First of all, all aspects of the question of Palestine should be resolved.

[Correspondent] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat thank you.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

Agreement Said Reached on Israeli Army's Redeployment

TA1403144395 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—Palestinian sources who wish to remain anonymous have said that Israel and the Palestinian Authority have reached agreement in principle, which they have agreed to keep secret, concerning the beginning of the Israeli army's redeployment in the West Bank. The first phase of the redeployment is to start at the beginning of June and the second phase at the end of the same month.

According to the agreement, the Israeli army's redeployment is to begin in each area separately, and there will be infrequent intervals between one phase and another.

The sources said that the question of setting a three-month timetable for concluding the phased redeployment was discussed with the Israelis, but that no agreement has yet been reached on this issue.

The sources noted that the start of redeployment will not be linked to the conclusion of talks on the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, as was agreed at the 'Arafat-Peres meeting on 9 March.

AL-QUDS has learned that the "Janin First" idea has been developed whereby the Israelis have proposed to begin the redeployment from the Janin area. The Palestinian side promised to study this proposal before giving a final answer.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi League Delegate Reports on Blockade Effects

NC1403214995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2014 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat has received an extensive report from the Iraqi permanent delegation at the Arab League on the health effects suffered by Iraq because of the continuing embargo, especially in the health sector, and the unprecedented deaths and diseases it has caused.

In his report to the Arab League, several regional and world humanitarian organizations, and Arab diplomatic missions in Cairo, Iraqi delegate Dr. Nabil Najm said the blockade against the Iraqi people is unprecedented in modern history in its brutality and violation of human rights.

He added that the continuing blockade against Iraq has left negative marks on various aspects of the Iraqi people's lives, especially on the health area. He noted that world reports indicated that the mortality rate is growing appallingly and that 530,907 people have died from the time the blockade was imposed up to December 1994 because of an acute shortage in medicine, food, and medical equipment.

He stressed that the United States' insistence on continuing the blockade despite Iraq's serious cooperation with the United nations is due to political reasons and is far from the spirit and letter of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

He urged international organizations and Arab governments to act effectively to lift the blockade on Iraq. Such an action, he noted, is one of the most prominent elements that would restore the Arab nation's solidarity, achieve stability in the region, and end the negative situation experienced by the region.

Iraq Protests Western Overflights to Arab League

NC1403214495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat has received an Iraqi memorandum about the violations of U.S., British, and French aircraft of Iraqi air space during the period 22-28 February.

Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, has stated that the memorandum shows that the three countries carried out 471 sorties during that period. He added that the U.S. and British planes that used to come from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and make low-altitude overflights caused cracks and damage to several buildings and caused some pregnant women to miscarry.

The Iraqi representative asserted that the overflights posed a clear violation of pan-Arab security and increased tension in the region.

He asked that the Iraqi memorandum be distributed to the Arab League member states.

Arab Countries May Suspend Arms Control Talks

MM1403110795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Mar 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Arab political sources in Cairo said yesterday that there is an Arab inclination, expected to be announced at the Arab League's foreign ministers conference in Cairo in the last week of this month, to suspend the arms control negotiations, one of the issues in the regional multilateral negotiations under the 1991 Madrid conference.

The sources said that consultations are in progress between several Arab parties on the grounds that that is the only practical answer to Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—the signing ceremony is expected to take place at the end of April in New York. That is especially so because Israel is still refusing to set a date or a period of grace after which it would sign the treaty. The Arab political sources say that the Arab decision, once made, would be binding on all the Arab states participating in the regional negotiations and that the decision would not apply to the other regional negotiation committees. The decision would be conveyed to the United States and Russia.

Arab League Official on Libya, NPT, Peace

NC1403112995 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 8 Mar 95 p 2

[Interview with Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran by 'Umar Ahmad 'Umar; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Umar] It is known that the Arab League has formed a committee to discuss the Israeli nuclear force. What results has this committee achieved?

['Imran] This is a very vital issue for all Arab countries because it is related to comprehensive pan-Arab security. The current situation is very serious: Israel is sitting atop more than 200 nuclear warheads and has missiles that can deliver those warheads to every Arab capital. Since 1968, the year when the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] was signed, Israel has categorically refused to join it. Since 1968 it has compiled nuclear weapons and delivery systems. The major nuclear powers, who put pressure on the Arab countries to make them sign, promised that they would also pressure Israel to make it join the treaty within a few months. Twenty-seven years have passed and Israel still refuses to sign. Indeed, the countries that promised to exert pressure on Israel have on the contrary provided nuclear assistance to it. A large part of Israel's nuclear technology has been stolen, seized, or obtained through technological and nuclear cooperation agreements with some Western countries. This shows that the current equation is seriously flawed and threatens pan-Arab security. Now the NPT is coming up for extension in New York in April. The Arab position is as follows: The Arab League Council discussed this issue on the foreign ministers' level and in September 1994 it passed a resolution to form a high-level, Arab technical committee to carry out two tasks:

1—To formulate a unified Arab view about the NPT extension.

2—To draw up a draft regional treaty turning the Middle East into a region free from weapons of mass destruction.

The committee met twice, on 25 and 26 October 1994, and agreed that the Arab countries must refuse to sign the NPT as long as Israel refuses to join the treaty.

The committee also formulated a first draft of the proposed treaty to turn the Middle East into a region free from weapons of mass destruction. Of course the first task, related to signing the NPT, is more urgent and for this reason our current discussions focus primarily on it. The Arab countries must realize that they are all threatened by the Israeli nuclear arsenal.

['Umar] The only Arab country other than Egypt that has declared that it will not sign unless Israel joins the NPT is Syria. What are the positions of the other Arab countries?

['Imran] All the Arab countries that participated in the Arab League's discussion of the nuclear dossier agree that they will not sign unless Israel joins the treaty. This Arab refusal to sign must remain firm. The Arab countries must reject all pressure and loudly proclaim that they support a peace founded on total nuclear disarmament and also on the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction. The Arabs must not believe any promises or guarantees by the major countries and go ahead and sign. Once bitten twice shy. We were bitten when we signed the first time in 1968 and believed the international promises that Israel would also sign.

['Umar] What about the Lockerbie issue between Libya and certain Western nations?

['Imran] The Arab League was the first party to support fraternal Libya in this crisis, naturally along with several other Arab countries. I can say from reading the resolution passed by the Arab League that all Arab countries have expressed their support for Libya. This support, however, clashed with the international stance. Certain countries managed through their control of the United Nations, or rather manipulation of this world body, to pass resolutions imposing sanctions on Libya. They refused to reconsider these sanctions even though their claims lack evidence. I can say that these countries realize that the file of accusations will collapse before a neutral judicial panel. This is why they refuse the Arab League's proposals and insist on a security rather than a judicial trial. I believe it is high time these sanctions imposed on a fraternal Arab people stopped. The continuation of these sanctions is a defiance of the peoples of many countries. It is well known that the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference are opposed to the continuation of these sanctions. What we see is an international community driven by a stick, lacking credibility, and using double standards. Israel defies the UN resolutions and despite this the United States does not boycott Israel. It even uses the money taken from taxpayers to give every Israeli $1,000 every year. This shows lack of credibility and what takes place at the United Nations must be rejected. [passage omitted]

['Umar] How would you assess the peace process at present?

['Imran] There is an imbalance in this process. Israel is not seeking peace. It still entertains the old Zionist dreams of continuing the occupation of the Arab territories, settling these territories, judaizing Jerusalem, and rejecting the UN resolutions. It sends balloons about Middle East countries, enjoying cooperation and prosperity. According to its concept, Israel wants to impose its political, economic, cultural, and security will on the Middle East. Regrettably, certain Western countries help Israel to achieve this goal under Zionist pressure. These countries are even putting pressure on the Arab countries to normalize ties with Israel. They seek this so-called normalization while Israel continues its occupation of Arab territories and rejection of the UN resolutions. What the Arabs must do is to turn the tables and speak out against all manifestations of normalization and reconsider all that has taken place if Israel refuses to comply with all the UN resolutions, notably withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and enabling the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. What has taken place so far has shown a genuine Arab desire to achieve peace, while Israel has continued its plotting to legalize the status quo of occupation and aggression. This current equation must not continue and must be reversed. Either all parties agree on peace or the Arab countries should make Israel understand that they will not keep silent about occupation and aggression and that they have a right to take all measures as the UN charter stipulates. The UN charter gives any people the right to make any efforts to end the occupation of and aggression against their territories. This is the new equation that must be rebuilt because it is no longer acceptable to keep silent about the status quo.

Palestinian Affairs

British Prime Minister Major Continues Visit

Meets With Officials in East Jerusalem

JN1403200895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 95

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting held by British Prime Minister John Major with a Palestinian delegation led by Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian National Authority, ended at the British Consulate in al-Shaykh Jarrah suburb in Jerusalem this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Hasan Tahbub, minister of awqaf and religious affairs in the Palestinian Authority;

Ghassan al-Khatib; Mahdi 'Abd-al-Hadi; and Fadil Tahbub [not further identified].

Following the approximately two-hour meeting, al-Husayni told journalists:

[Begin al-Husayni recording] [Words indistinct] on the peace process, the situation in Jerusalem in particular, the pending issues, and relations between Britain and [word indistinct] [end recording]

Al-Husayni said British Prime Minister Major showed understanding of the Palestinian position on Jerusalem, the danger of the Israeli measures there, and the impact of these measures on the whole peace process.

The British official explained his country's position, which considers east Jerusalem part of the territories occupied in 1967.

Answering a question on why the meeting was not held at Orient House and whether Israel has objected to the holding of the meeting there, al-Husayni said: We have always held these meetings—before and after the Oslo agreement—and we will until we reach a final agreement on Jerusalem. He said no Israelis contacted him to prevent the holding of this meeting at Orient House, and stressed that Israel cannot prevent the convening of this meeting although it can object and express its view.

Assistant British Foreign Minister Andrew Green paid a courtesy visit to Orient House this afternoon and met with a Palestinian delegation headed by Lawyer Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

Following the meeting with the British official, Abu-Zayyad said the two sides discussed several issues, especially the situation in Jerusalem, settlement activities, and the visit Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, was to have paid to Orient House. The visit was delayed because he was engaged elsewhere. The British official emphasized that his visit to Orient House is an official one in his official capacity as assistant to the British foreign minister.

'Arafat, Major Hold Talks in Gaza

JN1403194595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat this morning received British Prime Minister John Major. An official ceremony was held for the guest. President 'Arafat and his guest reviewed the guard of honor. The British and Palestinian national anthems were played in front of the presidency on Gaza beach.

President 'Arafat and Mr. Major held a session of talks. They discussed the current developments in the peace process and the obstacles facing its progress. President 'Arafat briefed Mr. Major on the Palestinian people's economic and living conditions in view of Israel's policy and its evasion of implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, particularly the redeployment of Israeli troops, halting settlement activity, releasing the detainees, and holding the Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The two sides also discussed bilateral relations. The British side stressed the importance of extending economic aid and technical assistance to the Palestinian people to help them rebuild the infrastructure, as well as supporting the National Authority to confront the difficulties and overcome the problems it is facing.

The meeting was attended by ministers Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, and Furayh Abu-Middayn as well as Abu-Tariq al-Shurafa, Marwan Kanafani, and Nabil Abu-Rudaynah.

Afterward, President 'Arafat accompanied his guest to the al-Hajj Rashad al-Shawwa center. He also accompanied him to the police headquarters to sponsor the rally held there on the occasion of the British Government donating 50 military vehicles to the Palestinian police.

Sha'th: UK To Help Build Gaza Airport, Port

JN1503080795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has stated that Britain expressed readiness to participate in building the Gaza airport and port.

Sha'th described the visit by John Major, the UK economy minister, and the UK businessmen to the Gaza Strip as positive and fruitful.

'Historic Significance' in Visit Seen

TA1403185195 Jericho AL-AQSA in Arabic 13 Mar 95 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The British Responsibility"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit that British Prime Minister John Major will make to the Gaza Strip, as the first liberated Palestinian territory on which the first Palestinian National Authority under the brother president has been established, represents a large step that has both political and historic significance. This is not only because it is the first visit by a European prime minister, but because it is a visit by the prime minister of Britain, which feels that it has a historic, present, and future responsibility to support our Palestinian people and their National Authority [NA] materially and politically in achieving their goals of freedom and independence.

In this century Britain has played a role that has had an inarguable impact on the situation that our Palestinian cause has reached. Automatically, it bears a considerable responsibility in correcting the mistake committed against our people by means of providing all kinds of assistance to our NA.

From this premise, we view Major's visit as a first step which we hope will be translated in political, material, and diplomatic terms into full support for our people's goals of ending the occupation of our land and establishing our Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Furthermore, the visit comes at a time when the political process is facing a grave impasse due to Israeli procrastination and the creation of occupation facts on the ground by Tel Aviv as a result of an indifferent international stance. This stance motivates Tel Aviv to continue violating agreements at the expense of a political dialogue which forms the basis of the peaceful process.

We hope that the British prime minister's step will be translated into "a firm" British stance in support of the Palestinian right and the immediate and speedy implementation of the Declaration of Principles, and into a clear stance based on ending the occupation of our occupied land and establishing our Palestinian state.

The time has come for Britain to change its image that has been drawn in the minds of our people over the present century. It should do so by refraining from the policy of hesitation, by pursuing a firm and clear policy in support of our people and their national rights, and by fulfilling its historical role of building the institutions of the independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Al-Quds Radio Assails Major's Visit

JN1403205495 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1757 GMT 14 Mar 95

["Political Touch" program: "Major in Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] British Prime Minister John Major has almost become lost in the Middle East. He has neither engaged columnists nor made radio and television headlines. Secretary Christopher has captured everything and left nothing for Major. Christopher has not left a page or a drop of ink for anybody else. He is in the limelight. All the press and other media headlines are devoted to him.

We are not saddened because Secretary Christopher has outshone the British prime minister. For us, both are the same. They both use Zionist standards and measures and speak in Zionist language. Palestine, Arab rights, holy places, and struggle are all tough and difficult words for the United States, Britain, and Zionism to speak.

It is said that the British prime minister is on an economic visit to Gaza. It is also said that the British tour represents an investment plan. However, despite the significance of these statements, Mr. Major has also seized the opportunity to use every single word in his political dictionary. He has advised Arab countries to restrict the freedom of strugglers and fighters under the familiar Western pretext of terrorism. He has asked the Arabs to surrender their rights and not to fight Zionists, so the Arabs may enjoy safety and security. He also visited Gaza-Jericho and urged 'Arafat to confront the opposition with an iron fist, using suppression, terrorism, and killing. Major did all of this and they still insist that his visit is of an economic nature and is meant as an investment plan. While doing all of this, Mr. John Major has forgotten that he is the heir of Balfour and of British colonialism, which gave the Jews a foothold on our land, planted aliens in our homeland, and shed the blood of martyrs and strugglers. Those martyrs include 'Ata al-Zir, Fu'ad Hijazi, Muhammad Jamjum, al-Qassam, al-Husayni, and dozens of heroic Arabs who were killed by British gunfire, guillotines, and plots.

Mr. John Major, who has almost been lost in the midst of U.S. fog, is under a great illusion if he thinks, even for a moment, that his Gaza-Jericho visit will atone for the sins of his predecessors and that the gifts he presented to Yasir 'Arafat are a fulfillment of the promises of his forefathers. This is because he knows, as everybody else knows, that Gaza-Jericho is a short act in the British plot and a small part of the British declaration and is an insignificant complementary part of the approach of his predecessors and forefathers. John Major also knows, as everybody else knows, that 'Arafat and his followers do not stand for anything in the history of our nation. Nor do they have any impact on the struggle of our people. In addition, 'Arafat and his followers do not have any right to forgive and forget as long as our people have rejected and shunned them and realized that they have been ungrateful to our blood, land, and heritage.

It is indeed a disgrace for 'Arafat and his followers to accept buses or cars for their police from the Balfour heir as a cheap bribe that is rarely matched. The fire of history cannot be doused. This raging fire on our mountains, plains, and coasts bears witness that Major's predecessors are the ones who hatched plots, did injustice, and established a foothold for the aliens in our country. We do not think that Major's visit could possibly douse the fire that is raging on our mountains, plains, and coasts. The fire will continue to rage and the usurpers of justice will remain a stigma for this age. It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

PLO Political Department Voices Solidarity With Lebanon

JN1403200395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO Political Department has expressed solidarity with Lebanon—its people and government—in the face of the continuous Israeli aggressions against the Lebanese people and their land.

In a statement it issued today, the Political Department said it viewed the continuation of the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and the aerial, land, and naval aggressions as a violation of international resolutions.

Arab Countries To Finance Jerusalem Housing Project

JN1403184795 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 13 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by 'Adil al-Sanhuri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The Palestinian self-rule authority has made preparations for a number of sports and arts activities on the occasion of the Arab League's 50th anniversary. On this occasion, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will deliver a speech at a popular gathering in Gaza.

Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League, said in a statement to AL-YAWM that the National Authority has submitted a plan for building about 10,000 Arab-financed housing units in Jerusalem. The plan was approved by the delegations of a number of Arab countries taking part in the international symposium on the status of Jerusalem. The symposium was called for by the Arab League and was attended by Arab and international delegations.

The Palestine representative to the Arab League said that this plan, whose implementation is to start this year, will be a real start for the Arab and Islamic presence in holy Jerusalem. He said that it will be followed by similar plans, the aim of which is to address the international community through the same style as the Israelis. He said this would ensure that an intensive Arab presence is imposed in Jerusalem before entering the second stage of negotiations in accordance with the Oslo agreement.

Algeria

Nahnah Sees Regime, Others 'Targeting' HAMAS

MM1403151695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Mar 95 p 4

[Report on news conference given by HAMAS leader Mafoud Nahnah by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab in Jeddah; date not given: "Nahnah Warns of Attempts To Drag the HAMAS Movement Into the Arena of Violence in Algeria and Accuses the Regime and the Armed Groups of Targeting His Movement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement in Algeria (HAMAS), has stated that the only way out of Algeria's acute crisis is through dialogue and meetings among the Algerians themselves to find out the minimum possible points of agreement, leaving contentious points until after the establishment of an authority elected by the people.

Nahnah said that his movement had been excluded from the Rome meeting held by a number of parties that were fully aware that HAMAS was the first party to call for the holding of a dialogue.

In a press conference attended by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Nahnah added that the rounds of dialogue in Rome were mere rounds that lacked participation by political functionaries and the regime. Likewise, he said, the Algiers dialogues lacked attendance by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] political elements.

Nahnah pointed out that there were numerous common grounds between the Algiers meetings and the Rome meetings, adding that his movement feels that the dialogues of Rome and Algiers possessed elements of success and that they could be combined together, with the agreement of the political partners involved. But the important question, he said, was: "Is the regime prepared to submit to the interests of the Homeland?"

Mahfoud Nahnah said that the way out of the crisis demands a serious, profound, and comprehensive dialogue on the most important issue, namely, how to stop the bloodshed and hold a general election leading to an elected authority and the widening of the circle of government so as to turn it into a national regime and not a partisan or factional one. Nahnah affirmed that his movement has never been at any time whatsoever a cause of the current crisis or the bankruptcy of the country.

In reply to a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the extent of the Algerian people's acceptance of his movement, Nahnah said: What concerns us is the people's search for a way out of the crisis so that bloodshed would be kept away. We believe that the people have found their quest in our movement. We do not claim that the entire people are on our side. But we claim that we are present and our movement is well-entrenched throughout Algerian territory.

Nahnah pointed out that there are some parties who have been exploiting their participation in the government and their presence within the regime to obstruct all plans aimed at ending the bloodshed, adding that there are also some political quarters who are not interested in ending the bloodshed because this would only help to expose them and their stances, and for this reason, they work to disturb the climate in order to prevent conditions returning to normal. He affirmed that there are elements within the regime and its machinery who care about nothing other than the continued confrontation with security forces.

He said that the only beneficiaries of what is taking place on the Algerian arena are the arms dealers, war brokers, advocates of the shattering of national unity, and advocates of the distortion of the image of the Islamic religion.

Nahnah called on the regime and the armed groups to halt their confrontations with each other, because the ultimate victims are the people. He said that his HAMAS movement suffers as much as the Algerian people and that it is the victim of the escalating violence. He added that his movement has lost some of its important personalities while other personalities managed to escape assassination. He added that "the blows are coming from left and from right, that is from the Islamic groups and that there are people within the regime and the armed groups who are anxious to push us into the battle and transform Algeria into scorched earth and embroil the country in a civil war. We refuse to become afflicted with Lebanization."

"We [the HAMAS movement members] are hunted by the armed groups through these groups' persistence with their acts of assassination and looting of cars and money and by the regime which fails to distinguish between [HAMAS] members and members of the armed groups." He affirmed that HAMAS has been paying the price "for its moderation and adherence to the right as it supports neither the regime nor the armed action."

He disclosed that more than 70 members of his movement have been hit as a result of attacks on its members. He estimated that about 20 HAMAS members are now in detention, adding that the number of detainees had reached 120 at one time but the movement had managed to secure their release. "We are now working to secure the release of those who are still under detention because it is not right for the regime to detain people on the basis of false charges," he affirmed.

Asked if the movement had any contacts with the FIS or the regime, Nahnah said: "We are anxious to establish contact with them. We extend our hands to and encourage all those who practice clean politics and have unsoiled hands, even if their ideas are different from ours. We hope that those involved in armed activities will return to the true basic principles of religion."

Nahnah warned that the current conditions in Algeria might lead to the internationalization of the crisis, pointing out that the attempts to internationalize the issue might lead to crises among the neighboring countries be it on the Continental [African] level or the Mediterranean level. The Western countries, he said, have been affected by several factors most important of which was the attempt under the New World Order to subject the Islamic countries and use some of the politicians who had been in power and their relations with them to internationalize the Algerian crisis. This is in addition to the French desire to add yet another direct element of pressure which might take the form of a direct intervention under the pretext of the "Protection of Minorities."

Nahnah pointed out that these factors "might help to internationalize the crisis and might reach the level of intervention in the Somali and Bosnian style. We do not exclude the likelihood of direct intervention, particularly as some Algerian parties are anxious to pursue a scorched-earth policy."

The HAMAS movement leader pointed out that there have been attempts to depict what is taking place as a bilateral conflict, while disregarding voices that call for the closing of ranks, the consolidation of dialogue, the widening of the base of government, and the abandonment of violence. He pointed out that many information media have been participating in the campaign to prevent his movement's voice from prevailing.

Asked about the likelihood of HAMAS' embroilment in the armed conflict in Algeria, Nahnah said: "This is one of the most important calls that we are trying to avoid. We do not want anyone to push us into dirtying our hands." He added that his movement does not wish to enter into a civil war and that the decision as to entering the arena of the current armed conflict is a matter that "would be decided by the movement's institutions, who I believe would not approve of bloodshed."

Replying to another question pertaining to the impending elections and his movement's attitude toward it, Nahnah said: "We support the view calling for the holding of presidential elections this year. These elections should be held because the country has been suffering from a real crisis caused by the absence of an elected authority in power."

He said that the elections must be honest, pointing out that the Algerian administration has been trying through its laws and measures to ensure that the winner in the presidential elections should be from among those in the regime.

He called on the Algerian military institution not to intervene in any of society's affairs, saying: We refuse to see the Army becoming a means for bringing pressure to bear on the whole people.

Replying to another question about the likelihood of army intervention in what is taking place in Algeria, Nahnah said: "The doors of political action are wide open and anything can happen. But what we reject is that coups might take place and lead to further bloodshed and the loss of opportunities."

Elsewhere, the Algerian National Transitional Council yesterday approved the creation of three new military medals on the orders of President Liamine Zeroual aimed at boosting the moral of the armed forces in their confrontation with the armed groups. Radio Algeria said that the National Council, whose members were appointed by the government, has approved the creation of a new Medal of Honor, a Medal of Merit, and a medal for wounded soldiers. It is recalled that Zeroual also occupies the post of Defense Minister.

Urges FIS To Renounce Violence

LD1403223795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With regard to the presidential elections, note this statement made by Mahfoud Nahnah, the leader of the HAMAS movement. I quote: It is vital to organize the presidential election as soon as possible in order to resolve the issue of power, end quote.

In an interview given to Al-HAYAT AL-'ARABIYAH, published in Bonn, Mahfoud Nahnah announced that he will soon launch an appeal to Islamic scholars to meet in Algeria, in order, I quote, to show the true image of Islam, condemn violence, and say the words that will be heard by the Algerians.

Finally, Mahfoud Nahnah appealed to the historic leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front to reject acts of violence and to distance themselves from those behind them in order to allow dialogue to succeed and to get out of the circle of violence.

The loss of human lives, the looting of property, and the rape of Algerian women and young girls are not acceptable. The political cover of those committing these crimes should be lifted, concluded Mahfoud Nahnah.

Security Eliminates 40 Provincial 'Terrorists'

LD1103201395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services said today that its forces had eliminated 40 terrorists and were capable of recovering a huge quantity of arms in the provinces of Laghouat, Tipasa, Boumerdes, the capital Algiers, and Chlef, where the majority of operations took place while the other 13 [as heard] were in Constantine, Blida, Bouira, Tissemsilt, Relizane, and Ain Defla.

Security Forces Discover Homemade Weapons Hideout

LD1203174895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services said in a statement today that their forces had discovered a hideout in the Lido area of Bordj El Kifan in the capital Algiers, in which they found homemade bombs, weapons, and other materials .

The security services pointed out in their statement that they found six homemade bombs made of small gas cylinders and also fire extinguisher containers connected to timing devices in the same hideout.

4 Arrested for Murder of Italian National

LD1403163895 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 1610 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has just been confirmed that the Italian worker who disappeared in Algeria last summer was kidnapped and murdered. His name is Ferruccio Franchini, 49, from Verona. He disappeared on 3 July 1994 when his car was found halfway between Ghardaia, 630 km southeast of Algiers, and the oil center where he worked for a building company from Faenza, in northern Italy, near Ravenna.

The Algerian authorities told the Italian Embassy in Algiers that four people thought to be the killers have been arrested.

Three 'Mysterious' Explosions Reported

LD1103201295 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Algeria, three mysterious explosions were heard yesterday, and those who heard them thought they were further bomb attacks. However, no official explanation has yet been provided. [passage omitted]

The daily newspaper L'AUTHENTIQUE, on the other hand, believes the noises might be the result of security mines being set off inside the French Embassy. The embassy has denied the allegation.

Talks Concluded With IMF on Financing

LD1203183595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria and the IMF have concluded their talks on signing an agreement on facilitating extended financing for a three-year economic and financial program.

In a statement to the Algerian Press Agency, Finance Minister Ahmed Benbitour pointed out that this agreement was connected with a three-year economic and financial program. It will be strengthened by facilitating the extended financing by the IMF during this period.

Benbitour pointed out that this economic program is aimed at creating systems for economic management with the aim of guaranteeing economic growth that allowed for making job opportunities available.

The main components of the program are represented by the budget policy, monetary policies on the exchange rates, and the liberalization of foreign trade, organization of exchange rates, liberalizing internal prices, reforming the tax system, reforming the banking and financial systems, promoting the building of houses, reforming and privatizing public enterprises, and reforming the social protection system.

As the finance minister pointed out, the issue concerned the continued entrenchment of the reforms that started within the framework of the stand-by agreement.

Egypt

Fugitive 'Terrorist Leader' Arrested in al-Minya

NC1403174695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—The security authorities in al-Minya Governorate today arrested a runaway terrorist leader involved in carrying out several of the recent acts of violence in Abu Qurqas District in al-Minya. He was arrested when he threw himself out of the window from the flat that he used as a hideout.

A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said that following legal procedures, the security authorities early this morning stormed the hideout of the fugitive terrorist leader Ramadan Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahab Mursi, one of the most prominent terrorists in Markaz Abu Qurqas, who was tasked with carrying out the recent incidents of violence in that district.

The security source added that as the forces warned the terrorist to give himself up, they were surprised by the terrorist jumping out of the window of the flat that he used as a hideout. He fell and broke bones in various parts of his body.

He was taken for treatment under heavy guard. When inspecting the hideout, the forces discovered two explosive charges, each weighing about one kg, a handgun, and ammunition.

The source said criminology laboratory experts went to the hideout to handle the seized equipment and that the prosecution office was notified to begin an investigation.

Tourist Bus Driver Shot in Traffic Incident

NC1303211195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1957 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—The security agencies this evening detained a private car driver after firing at a driver of a tourist bus at the Sittah Uktubar overpass following a quarrel between them because he tried to overtake the tourist bus on the overpass. Major General Ra'uf al-Minawi, the Interior Ministry official spokesman, said that the private car driver, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abid, a former bank employee and currently a businessman, was driving his private car along the overpass and tried to pass the tourist bus. The bus driver stopped and they engaged in a brawl before 'Abid fired at the bus driver with a licensed weapon, wounding his foot. The bus driver was taken to hospital. Maj. Gen. al-Minawi said that the security forces immediately detained the defendant, who admitted firing at the bus driver. No passengers or pedestrians were injured in the incident. Al-Minawi said that 'Abid explained that he became very enraged when the bus driver blocked his lane. The spokesman noted that an examination of the defendant showed that he is suffering from psychological problems and that he had fired his hunting rifle at his son three years ago after a quarrel between them. He said that the defendant has been referred to the prosecution for interrogation.

Labor Party Leader on Violence, Elections

NC1103123995 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Mar 95 p 3

[Interview with Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri by Mahmud Bakri; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Bakri] The Labor Party and its ally the Muslim Brotherhood are the target of repeated government assaults represented by the recent assault on the party's secretary general 'Adil Husayn and the assaults on Dr. Hilmi Murad [Labor Party deputy leader] and others two years ago. More recently influential members of the professional associations who are Muslim Brothers were the victims of arbitrary government measures. How big are the dimensions of these assaults?

[Shukri] These repeated assaults represent the ugliest form of violation of the freedom of expression in this country that you can imagine. Trumped up charges are used as was the case with 'Adil Husayn. Before that I was summoned for interrogation and Dr. Hilmi Murad and some AL-SHA'B journalists were subjected to harassment. The government's actions were stepped up against factory workers in Kafr al-Dawwar on the pretext that they put up poster portraits of 'Adil Husayn. When the Prosecutor's Office released the workers, the security forces obtained new arrest warrants against them. Additionally the Muslim Brotherhood are the target of an onslaught. The security authorities monitored meetings, which they claimed were convened by the Muslim Brothers to make plans to contest the elections. But this is a normal matter that is not punishable under the law. Further assaults were carried out against the professional associations by amending Law 100 without consulting the parties who are affected by this law. We also have some observations to make about the recent by-elections. I believe that these are not good signs in an election year.

[Bakri] In light of these events, will the coalition between the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood hold?

[Shukri] Judging by our past experiences, both in the 1987 general elections and in subsequent local elections, this coalition has had good results. The coalition was first formed by the Labor and Liberal Parties and the Muslim Brotherhood in 1987. I believe that for purposes of coordination in the next elections we can include other parties in the coalition.

[Bakri] Has the Labor Party made plans to contest the next elections?

[Shukri] We have made preparations. We have registered our voters in the election lists and called on the party's local branches and committees to seek to have their voters registered. We have also called on the authorities to review and amend the voter registration lists. Our local branches in the governorates are drawing up plans for the measures and actions to be taken during the elections.

[Bakri] You boycotted the 1990 parliamentary elections but you plan to contest this year's elections. What new developments made you change your mind?

[Shukri] We are still demanding guarantees to ensure that the elections are fair. This is a basic demand. First of all a general call must be sent out to all voters to participate in the elections. They must also feel confidence in the elections; many do not vote because they feel that their vote is futile. Among the guarantees we are demanding is to ascertain the identity of the voter and the fact that he is actually present at the voting booth by showing his ID card. Wives and daughters can prove their identity by citing the ID card number of their husbands and fathers. If the voter is literate, he should sign his name; if not he should put his fingerprint. This is not a difficult procedure and the government can arrange it. If necessary the number of voters at each polling station can be reduced by half to ensure that the voters have time to write down the required information. We also demand judicial supervision of the elections. If there are not enough judges for this job, we can ask university professors to chair the election committees. They are enlightened people who realize how important the elections are. It is also possible to hold the elections over two days instead of one to make sure that there are enough judges to supervise the process.

[Bakri] You will, however, participate in the elections whether the government fulfills your demand for these guarantees or not?

[Shukri] We will contest the elections because the current People's Assembly does not represent the people's true wishes. We state that it is in the regime's interest to let the opposition parties participate in the elections and have the guarantees they ask for. Otherwise it is meaningless for President Mubarak to urge the opposition parties to participate in the elections without these guarantees. We hear reports about a plan to form a neutral cabinet that will supervise the elections and another plan to use international observers. I believe that we can spare ourselves all this trouble by providing the necessary guarantees of fairness for the elections. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] If the next elections are held according to the proportional representation system, does the Labor Party intend to participate in the elections under a unified list with other opposition parties?

[Shukri] I believe the state will not adopt the ticket system but I imagine there will be a compromise solution. That is to contest half of the seats under the individual candidate system and the other half under the ticket system. By doing so it will be easier to coordinate with other parties and trends. There is no need for tickets in the name of one single party and tickets could be shared by various parties, such as the Labor, the Wafd, or the Nasirite parties for example against the National Democratic Party candidates. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] In the context of cohesion and communication with the people, the media play an effective role and you have said more than once that you intended to publish AL-SHA'B on daily basis. Do you think that the high cost of paper and publication has hampered AL-SHA'B's daily publication?

[Shukri] Indeed there is a steep rise in the paper prices and the government papers attract most of the advertisements leaving no opportunity for the opposition party papers to take advertisements that would cover the costs. God willing, we will overcome obstacles so that AL-SHA'B will be more available among the people during the next election campaign. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] The society is experiencing mounting violence between the government and Islamic groups. How do you view these escalating incidents?

[Shukri] It is worrying to see acts of violence that increase at times and decrease at other times. But what is clear is that the continuation of the emergency law and the introduction of changes to criminal procedures law confirm that we are living in an abnormal situation. For 14 years we have been living under the emergency law and undoubtedly this affects investment, tourism, and other economic activities.

Recently I heard a BBC report citing a British newspaper about the Egyptian security authorities' measures to protect tourists. These measures include police car escorts for tourist groups travelling with an enormous speed exceeding 100 km per hour and releasing irritating sounds. Naturally this is not in tourism's favor; rather it scares tourists and make them worry for fear they might suffer incidental or surprise accidents.

I believe 95 percent of the measures taken in Upper Egypt should stop. The spread of weapons in Upper Egypt is not linked only with terrorist groups but it is a norm and tradition for which Upper Egypt is known. Also revenge incidents are spread in Upper Egypt and this is a bad habit.

Regrettably revenge has spread among some individuals and families who felt that police were unfair in arresting their relatives. There is a feeling that sometimes methods are used without making sure suspects would remain alive. Nothing will remain unrevealed no matter how some people try to conceal the facts. Reports on human rights issued by official circles have mentioned numerous incidents. I do not want to elaborate but believe that violence breeds violence and this phenomenon must be tackled with all means to diminish its chances of growth. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Some officials frequently level charges against the Labor Party and its newspaper AL-SHA'B that they support terrorism. What is your response to these accusations?

[Shukri] We are against all kinds of terrorism whether those resulting from erroneous acts by the police or those committed by irresponsible youths. We say that the police should handle incidents in a way that people are not left with feelings of hatred. This is especially true in light of the talk that acts of premeditated murder were committed against some people who were proven to be in custody before being killed and it was later announced that they were killed in clashes. This situation must be handled and it cannot be handled by silence over erroneous behaviors. Means of the right cure must be sought. [passage omitted]

Parliament Agrees To Settle Debt With Iran

LD1303210695 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, March 13, IRNA—The economic affairs committee in the Egyptian parliament agreed yesterday to settle the debt to Iran worth drls 149 million (mn), Cairo daily AL-WAFD Monday reported. Economy undersecretary Rafiq Suwaylam told the committee that the original debt was drls 283 mn, but the Islamic government of Iran aggred to reduce the debt to drls 149 mn.

The settlement comes after nearly two years of talks between Egyptian and Iranian officials. Egypt will give Iran equipment, designs and technical support worth the amount of the debt to be used for five sugar plants in the province of Khuzestan, he said. The Egyptian Government will place the money in an account in the Bank of Egypt for International Islamic Cooperation.

Bahrain

Prime Minister on Riots, Ties with Qatar

JN1403155495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 14 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain, has emphasized that dialogue and the continuation of meetings and consultation between the leaders and people are historical traditions of which Bahrain is proud and eager to develop in a manner that suits the requirements of each stage of national action.

This came in a speech his highness delivered at an ordinary session of the Consultative Council this morning that was attended by the president and members of the Consultative Council, ministers, and a number of ranking state officials. [passage omitted]

In his speech, the Bahraini prime minister spoke about the acts of rioting and sabotage that took place recently in some areas of the country led by a misguided and deceptive group, and stressed that the only objective of these incidents was to undermine security and stability, and to weaken the solid base of this country.

His highness said that these incidents, which aimed to destroy public and private property, terrorize the people, and undermine the spirit of amity and family that prevails in our society, were well-planned in terms of timing and preparation. It was no coincidence that these incidents took place at a time when the whole region, not only Bahrain, was suffering from hard economic circumstances. They also took place while Bahrain was preparing to host the 15th summit conference of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

His highness emphasized that the foreign quarters that supported and planned these incidents were against the continuation of the spirit of solidarity and vigilance prevailing in GCC states because this spirit has regional effects on the interests of these foreign quarters.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah stressed that the members of that group wanted to abort the summit and to tamper with the resources of the GCC states, starting with Bahrain. To implement their design, they used the weapon of tendentious rumors, and they tried to fuel sedition that is alien to our society's conduct and beliefs. They also used false allegations as a pretext for these incidents. This included their allegation that unemployment is the reason for these incidents. This is untrue and totally unacceptable because these actions serve the opposite purpose, and sabotage only entrenches destruction and recession, while everything can be discussed and solutions can be reached through sound means.

His highness said the problem of unemployment is one of the problems of all current societies and is not a solely Bahraini problem. It is a problem from which various world countries are suffering, including the rich and big countries. He said that we are aware of the problem and we sympathize with those who suffer from it, and believe that quick actions should be carried out to find solutions for this problem. However, to use this problem as a pretext for sabotage and riots is totally unacceptable.

If we look to the leaflets that instigated the riots and sabotage, which were made by certain quarters who give themselves different names, we see that the real objectives of these actions are far from the objective they claim, which in fact seek to undermine the homeland's public order.

His highness the prime minister of Bahrain added: Despite this, Bahrain was among the first countries to be aware of the problem of unemployment and worked to tackle this problem. Bahrain has always tried to find solutions to this problem through implementing policies of Bahrainization, intensifying programs for training and for vocational and job related rehabilitation, and encouraging and giving incentives to the private sector to employ Bahrainis. He noted the Consultative Council's good efforts and cooperation with the government to study the issue and find solutions to it.

His highness said that thanks to the Bahraini people's awareness, and before that to almighty God, the evil attempt was aborted, the sedition was nipped in the bud, and the ones who harbored evil toward our country and wanted to tamper with the potential of our people and encroach on our country's security and stability were deprived of the opportunity to achieve their goals. He said: From the beginning, all the people rallied around their leadership, renewing their allegiance and reaffirming their rejection and denunciation of any act that would infringe upon our national unity, our country's security and stability, and our norms and values. Also, all the sectors of our people were supportive of the measures taken by the government to face the events and to contain them swiftly. His highness noted the honorable stand taken by the Consultative Council in which it reaffirmed its denunciation and rejection of all acts of sabotage, riots, and insults. This stand, he added, was taken in light of the concern and fraternity which prevails in our one community.

His highness said: Many people who feared that the country's interests and people would be harmed by these incidents called for striking with an iron fist at those who tamper with the country's interests. However, the ties of the one community and the requirements of our social links have made us extremely patient. But we reiterate that those who committed crimes against their country and society and those who deluded themselves into tampering with the homeland's security and achievements and into plotting against its interests will be punished. There will be no leniency toward encroaching on the homeland's security and safety. There will be no leniency toward those who carry out acts of sabotage and spread corruption in the homeland. In the Law of

Equality, there is saving of life to you, O ye men of understanding. [Koranic verse]

His highness the prime minister said in his speech that thanks to its wise foreign policies Bahrain has attained many achievements on the foreign level. These achievements, he added, are in harmony with the achievements attained on the domestic level, thereby giving Bahrain a distinguished position in terms of its relations with various sisterly and friendly countries.

Bahrain has committed itself to pursuing a civilized manner in its international relations—a manner based on the principles of good neighborliness, noninterference in domestic affairs, positive cooperation, respect for international laws and norms, seeking regional and world peace, and cordial dialogue as a means to solve disputes and differences.

His highness added that efforts to strengthen security and stability in the region constitute one of our foreign policy's main principles, and one which the GCC has adopted since its establishment in 1981 and which stresses Bahrain's credibility and the soundness of its trends.

Through its efforts within the GCC, Bahrain has always supported every move to bolster Gulf solidarity, unify the ranks, and strengthen the region's security and stability in order to protect its gains and to pave the way for sincere brotherly cooperation to achieve the aspirations and ambitions of the sons of the GCC.

His highness also said: Proceeding from this principle, Bahrain has always stressed the need for a cordial solution not only to its border dispute with the fraternal State of Qatar, but also to any existing or future disputes among the brothers. Experience, he added, has repeatedly shown that this way alone is the best one to eliminate hard feelings, to preserve brotherly ties, and to avoid the repercussions of other solutions.

His highness the prime minister expressed his deep happiness over and his pride in the wise initiative announced by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He also welcomed this continued brotherly mediation between the State of Bahrain and the fraternal State of Qatar within the framework of the great role being played by the custodian of the two holy mosques in bolstering the GCC and its solidarity in the face of challenges threatening the region and increasing division and differences among us.

His highness the Bahraini prime minister also voiced his appreciation for the fraternal and friendly countries that welcomed and supported this trend to solve the dispute.

His highness said that as we have a desire to reach a fraternal solution to end the differences between the two fraternal countries and as the brothers in Qatar have a similar desire, we hope that we will see a solution this year that will further cooperation and solidarity among us. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Jordanian, Palestinian Workers Allowed To Bring Families

JN1403141495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Mar 95 p 20

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources from the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Amman have said that Jordanians and Palestinians working in Saudi Arabia can apply to the Saudi Interior Ministry in order to bring their wives and children with them, as was the case five years ago. The sources said that the Saudi Interior Ministry would inform the Saudi Embassy in Amman of the approved applications so that visas can be granted to applicants.

CDLR Statement on Unwarranted Imprisonment

MS1503110595 London CDLR MONITOR in English 8 Feb 95

[Statement for the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, CDLR—received by fax 14 March]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We call upon the people to participate and react to our request, as we can never accept the pleasures of life whilst our scholars and brothers are suffering torture and humiliation in detention.

How can this Nation accept being controlled by ignorant oppressors while its distinguished sons are imprisoned? We are certain that our scholars and brothers can be patient in prison, but it is shameful to us, and to the nation, if we keep silent on such criminal acts.

Enough humiliation and disgrace! The tyrants will not offer you your freedom on a plate, as freedom can only be achieved by hard work, endeavour and sacrifice.

It would be a great shame for our Muslim Nation to be proceded by other Nations such as Romania, South Africa, Thailand etc., in sacrificing their own interests when they stood before their own oppressors tanks and machine guns.

O people of the peninsula, the situation has become intolerable and if you have prepared yourselves to sacrifice for Allah, then this is surely your chance.

This regime is fragile and their soldiers, on whom they depend, are, in reality, on your side in their hearts and feelings. They may even stand beside you in the future.

Therefore, do not feel hopeless and despondent, and do not hesitate to take a firm stand for your beliefs.

London, Wednesday the 8th of February 1995

CDLR Statement on Animosity Toward Reformers

MS1503113095 London CDLR MONITOR in English 6 Mar 95

[Statement for the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, CDLR—received by fax 14 March]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the Committee publishes this news, it confirms that such despicable activities have arisen from the consuming hatred and animosity felt by Al Sa'ud towards the reformers and the reform movement.

The targets are not simply Shaykhs Salman and Safar as claimed by Al Sa'ud in the past. We cannot rule out the possibility that more Shaykhs and scholars will suffer the same fate in the near future. As a result, the rulers have firmly closed the door in the face of those who had hopes that there may be some kind of intervention from those whose continue to support the oppressors.

The Committee would also like to confirm that this campaign is concurrent with the event of more economic, social, political and security problems, along with a greater exploitation of the Kingdom's material and human resources for the benefit of a small clique of privileged people.

More suffering for the Nation is occurring with regard to freedom, lifestyle and security. On this occasion the Committee repeats its call to everyone to prepare for the campaign of protests which will begin, in Sha'Allah [God Willing], with the "sit-in" in Shaykh 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Turayri Mosque in Riyadh on the third Friday of Shawwal (18th of March 1995), and also in the mosque of Shaykh Safar al-Hawali in Jeddah.

The committee advises the Muslim youth to be wary of responding to those people who would try to demoralise them, and we would encourage our youth to strive hard and work towards our goal with maximum discipline.

Ask Allah, to life this feelings of despondence and dispiritedness from the Nation and to assist the Nation in breaking free from oppression and tyranny. London, Tuesday the 6th of March 1995

'Aziz Meets UN Chief, Russian Envoy in New York

JN1403212495 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met in New York today with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali.

Earlier today, Tariq 'Aziz met in his place of residence with Ambassador Sergey Lavrov, Russia's permanent representative at the UN Security Council.

Opposition Commentary Views Renewal of Sanctions

NC1403171995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Mar 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The renewal of the international sanctions against Iraq was expected. The regime failed to win the sympathy of the world public, and its diplomacy made no progress in its campaign to get the sanctions lifted.

Three days ago, the regime organized a conference on oil and gas, attracting many Western companies. This draws attention, given the fact that there is a ban on air travel from and to Baghdad. Despite the economic nature of the conference, its launching by the regime was, according to political observers, a political initiative, especially in light of the fact that the regime intensified its political efforts before the Security Council held it periodic meeting to review the sanctions.

Through a policy of economic temptations, the regime managed to convince Russia, France, and China to support its position regarding the lifting of the sanctions. But conviction is something and reality is something else. The United States succeeded in imposing its view after it proved to the Security Council members that the regime was not observing international organizations. The United States cited the regime's aggression and cease-fire violation in the security zone in northern Iraq, and this played a major role in maintaining the sanctions.

If the oil and gas conference failed to tame the international position toward the despotic regime in Iraq, the regime's diplomatic effort was also a failure. The visit by the regime's Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to Oman and Qatar angered the other Arab Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This was clear during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Riyadh and his meeting with the foreign ministers of the Gulf states in Jeddah. The Saudi and Kuwaiti delegates expressed fear about the regime's diplomatic moves, and they called for maintaining the sanctions.

The renewal of the international sanctions against Iraq will heighten the tragedy and pains of our people in this country. It will create further hardship and suffering, and will largely affect the life of our kinsfolk. Despite the political consequences of the decision, which will affect the regime, the economic consequences will harm our people's living conditions, and even their future and that of the coming generations.

Our Iraqi people no longer tolerate this awful situation, which violates their dignity, independence, and sovereignty. The regime mortgaged Iraq and its people to foreign forces, and it is now mortgaging the country's wealth and resources to serve its own purposes and false ambitions for power. It is a criminal and murderous regime that deserves nothing but revenge and annihilation, God willing.

Al-Samarra'i Said Part of 'Plan' by Regime

JN1403195595 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 13 Mar 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London—AL-MUHARRIR—An Iraqi politician, who has been residing in Geneva for several years, has expressed his conviction that what is currently taking place in northern Iraq is an official Iraqi plan to destroy the last opposition strongholds. The Iraqi politician said: A few months ago, the Iraqi regime was able to infiltrate the so-called "Unified Iraqi National Congress" [UINC], which is supported and financed by U.S. intelligence in northern Iraq, through a senior Iraqi security official. It has been said that "this Iraqi official fled to the Iraqi Kurdish areas after participating in a coup attempt in the middle of last year, after which a number of ranking officers were arrested."

In a statement to AL-MUHARRIR last Tuesday, the Iraqi politician said that the reports, which were published in the Gulf papers abroad and which were not published in other papers in the world, were "overexaggerated and were so naive that they could not achieve the American objectives behind them." The Iraqi politician revealed that he has "real fears" that Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of Iraqi Military Intelligence, who appeared suddenly in the Iraqi Kurdish areas at the end of last year, "fled"—through an agreement with the Baghdad authority—to expose the opposition, which is supported by the Americans who supply it with heavy and medium military equipment, vehicles, and tanks, to create disturbances in the northern Iraqi cities along the borders with the Kurdish areas.

The Iraqi politician said that, after months of study, it became clear that most of the information on Iraq's chemical and nuclear armament, which al-Samarra'i conveyed to U.S. intelligence after fleeing from Iraq, were old.

The Iraqi politician, who describes himself as "neutral," remarked that al-Samarra'i may have played a serious role in inciting the Kurdish Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal

Talabani wings against each other through deliberately-leaked information. That resulted in the eruption of battles, which have been continuing to date, despite the latest fragile cease-fire announcement.

It seems that al-Samarra'i has managed to convince the Americans, the UINC leaders, the Saudis, and the Kuwaitis that he was really a "runaway from the regime" and that the "serious information" in his possession was sufficient to threaten the Baghdad regime through the gathering of the remnants of the opposition in the north in preparation for launching a "war of liberation against the Saddam Husayn regime." Events have shown that the former director of the Military Intelligence Service has apparently succeeded in his mission. For, he has lured the internal oppositionists out of their dens for the first time since the end of the Gulf war "and handed them on a silver platter to the Iraqi forces, which are now launching an extensive campaign to liquidate them."

The Iraqi politician revealed that al-Samarra'i has visited Riyadh and Kuwait several times since his "flight," and that he was hosted for several days in December 1994 at the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, near Washington. Afterward, the politician said, "senior U.S. officials" met with him.

AL-MUHARRIR asked another source in the Iraqi opposition about this information. He did not rule out the possibility that the information was leaked from Baghdad with the aim of destroying al-Samarra'i as an oppositionist. The source said that Major General al-Samarra'i could in fact be a dangerous and effective oppositionist. Therefore, Iraq moved to destroy him by deliberately leaking information to cast doubts about him.

KDP Leader Mas'ud Barzani Interviewed

NC1003184095 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 8 Mar 95 p A4

["Full text" of an "exclusive Interview" with KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani by Rasit Gurdilek in Barzani's "mountain headquarters of Seri Rash" near Irbil "last week"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TDN [TURKISH DAILY NEWS]—Mr Barzani, this seems to be the most serious of your disputes with the PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan]. Can you give a general overview as to its background?

Barzani—It's a war of democracy against dictatorship. This is the second time that he has set up such a fighting. And its over election. That's the true nature of the matter. And as for how the situation can be addressed, they have to get rid of dictatorial tendencies. The result of an election, no matter which way it is, is OK for us. But if they want to impose a de-facto situation, whatever it is, by force, we cannot accept it.

TDN—Diverse sides, including the Iraqi National Congress (INC), Turkey, the United States are trying to stop the fighting. Why have these failed.

Barzani—Verbally he has accepted, but in practice, he has not done anything at all for the establishment of an agreement. And that's what happened during the arrival of the delegation here. Both sides did agree to stopping the fighting, but it was not realized at the time. And of course, the second point is that it is a military coup. We consider it a military coup. And accepting something which is a result of a military coup, we cannot do.

They have to get out of Irbil unconditionally. And after that, it might be possible to conduct some talks.

TDN—The PUK's occupation of Irbil seems to be the stumbling bloc in the search for a compromise. Are you determined to take the city by force, or are you ready to wait until new mediation bears fruit.

Barzani—We continue to respect the agreement. The promise we made to the American and Turkish diplomats here. But that does not mean that the time is totally open. We continue to respect the agreement. But if we deem it not useful anymore, we will force them, we will throw them out militarily.

TDN—But it seems that PUK is trying to avoid a direct confrontation over Irbil and leave it to the time to gain acceptance for it. Are you planning to set a deadline to storm the city?

Barzani—We have our own plan and our own program to do the work, and there are some other targets that could be more decisive than just storming Irbil. We have alternatives that could force them to leave Irbil.

TDN—After the matters have reached this point, it does not look very realistic to anticipate the PUK to leave Irbil immediately. Could there be any other formula acceptable to Mr Talabani?

Barzani—If he had been serious about leaving Irbil, there had been several mediations: By the U.S. delegation, by the Turkish delegation, there have been the Iraqi National Congress (INC), there are 17 Kurdish Parties which are mediating. And all these could have been enough facesaving occasions he could go behind and go out of Irbil.

TDN—Supposing the PUK agreed to go out of Irbil. What would be the conditions for a rapprochement?

Barzani—The old form of cooperation between the two parts is not possible. The 50-50 division of power has proven to be unsuccessful. We do not have a ready solution in mind, but there has to be another way of cooperation to be found. The role of other parties will have to be enhanced.

TDN—Do you contemplate a revision of the electoral law to prevent the recurrence of an impasse?

Barzani—The different alternatives have to be studied. I do not have a definite plan in my mind. It depends very much on the election. Whether there will be an election.

TDN—When can be the earliest time for a new election, given the need for the creation of conditions for an atmosphere of trust? Barzani—In my opinion, Talabani and his party would never like to have another election to happen. It is the second time that they are fighting, and both was aimed to prevent the elections. If they can, they will fight 10 more times to prevent the elections.

TDN—So in your opinion what do they want? The continuation of the power sharing?

Barzani—It's their mentality that they want to be the ruling party. They are dictatorial and chauvinistic. Even they did not want the 50-50—and it was actually 75 to 25 in their favor, and they did not accept it.

TDN—What do you mean by 75-to-25?

Barzani—Well, to start with, it was not 50-50 exactly, because we had one more than 50 (in the 105-member parliament where five seats were assigned to Christians) but we gave it away. Still, they extended their share to 75 percent in their behavior. They behaved like that. In the government, and in the bureaucracy. For instance, the prime minister, the finance minister and the chief of the regional bank all belonged to the same party, their party, and they behaved with the resources of the government the way they liked. Without a legal supervision.

TDN—What safeguards will you seek in new elections if they are held? A winner takes all system? Or a reallocation of the ministries? Would, you, for instance, want to control the finance ministry.

Barzani—We have to appoint a committee that supervises finance. Shortly speaking, there has to be an auditing. And until now, the budget has not been presented to the parliament. There has to be an auditing office to supervise the expenditures.

TDN—What else? Are there other measures needed to be contemplated?

Barzani—The entire government was a failure. Because they did not offer anything to the people. Because they did not offer anything to the system. The illegality started from the prime minister himself. They used the entire government for the party purposes. To reinforce their own position. So, everything has to be revised.

TDN—So how long will it take for the new system to be readied?

Barzani—The defeats that the PUK will suffer will be the factor that defines this matter. The more defeats they suffer, the sooner we will arrive at this system where things will work. And its some time that their defeats have started one after the other. Kasnazan they attacked on the night of Dec. 22 became a graveyard for them.

TDN—Their spokesman say that the sharing of the revenues from the Habur border gate is a main reason for the clashes. A chief accusation was that you were not giving them their due from the coder revenues.

Barzani—They are not the truth. They are lying in that respect. They stole 14 million dollars from the Bank of the Region, two million dollars of the cement factory in al-Sulaymaniyah, two to three hundred thousand of dollars of people's deposits in the banks of these cities. And revenues from the customs point in al- Sulaymaniyah and Karkuk provinces, they have stolen all these. We believe that they are fighting because of election. And whatever else they say is just lies.

TDN—They feared losing the election?

Barzani—They were sure. They knew that they would lose. And they knew that once they lost their position will be very weak and critical both at home and abroad, internationally. In the former negotiations and agreement situation they offered us that there should not be an election. That they should be postponed indefinitely. But we did not accept that. Then they demanded that we go to election through a joint list, again sharing the power that this might bring. And we thought this to be a mockery of the election. And at the end, they accepted our position, but it seems, they did not accept it sincerely.

TDN—What makes you think they were to lose such a contest? Were there concrete signs?

Barzani—The groups that joined us told that they were losing their support. There were the statistics. There were many evidence.

TDN—Talabani says that Turkey is pressing the Iraqi Kurds to reach an agreement with Baghdad, he says is not acceptable.

Barzani—Turkey never pressed for that. Only one time, they said "we think it is better this solution should be in Baghdad." We said "OK, is it only your opinion, or your joint opinion with your allies, the United States and others. We said if its your idea, please tell us, and if it is the idea of all of you, also please tell us." But they did not tell us anything so far.

TDN—Does that make a difference?

Barzani—If all four governments (Turkey, United States, Britain and France) have decided that the solution should be through negotiations with Baghdad, that means a different thing. But if it is only an opinion of Turkey, then it makes a lot of difference.

TDN—Talabani says that an agreement with Baghdad will not be possible until Saddam Husayn goes and a democratic Iraq is formed.

Barzani—Believe me that if Saddam Husayn accepts him, he will go tomorrow. But Saddam does not accept him.

TDN—Talabani says his forces control 75 percent of the Kurdish area?

Barzani—That is not true. In Irbil province he just controls this city of Irbil. The rest, Saqlawah, Harir, Choman, Qasri, these areas and the Soran area are all in our hands. And Dahuk province is totally in our hands. And from Nineveh area, the Mosul district and Aqrir and Sheikhan are in our hands and in the al-Suleimaniyah area also, there are two main districts, Penjwin and Halabja are in our hands. And even what he controls now is temporary.

TDN—Regarding Turkey's attitude, do you find it satisfactory, or do you feel it is wanting in some respects?

Barzani—We think that the attitude of Turkey is quite satisfactory. It is good. So far it has been neutral. And what it demanded was that both sides stop fighting and come to an agreement.

TDN—Talabani has accused Turkey of having a tilt towards the KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party], and is supporting it....

Barzani—He has a paranoia. According to him there is a triangular plan between Salah al Din (Barzani's headquarters), Ankara and Baghdad to fight against him. He thinks himself too important.

TDN—All this fighting and recriminations have created an impression abroad that the Iraqi Kurds cannot manage themselves, that they had been given a chance for democracy and wasted it....

Barzani—For the last 30 years, Jalal Talabani has worked for this end. To make any effort for the success of the Kurdish people fail. And he was a mercenary of the Iraqi government for six years. and we believe that as long as he lives he will try his best to prevent the Kurdish people from achieving success. He wants to be the sole leader of the Kurdish people, but the Kurdish people will not accept somebody who has been a mercenary for six years. Otherwise, if he is not going to be the leader of the Kurdish people, then he will spoil it.

TDN—Which side the PKK [Workers' Party of Kurdistan] takes in the conflict?

Barzani—PKK is neutral.

PUK Leader Jalal Talabani Interviewed

NC1103112595 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 8 Mar 95 p B4-B5

["Full text" of an "exclusive interview" with PUK leader Jalal Talabani by Rasit Gurdilek in Talabani's "battle headquarters" "last week"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TDN [TURKISH DAILY NEWS]—Mr. Talabani, before coming here, I visited the hospital in Irbil where there was a six-year-old girl injured in an artillery attack. Her foot was in pretty bad shape and was likely to be amputated. She was one of the six children injured (two later died). So, a war is going on again, and its the civilians who are suffering mostly. What's the reason? This seems to be the most serious of the disputes between the two major parties. What is to be done? It seems brave steps are needed from either side to break the deadlock and end this suffering.

Talabani—Well, this war happened after we reached complete agreement with the KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party] over all issues and problems. We have signed a new alliance, a strategic alliance which was to be in force until the end of the century. There was no reason, a meaningful reason for such kind of war. Suddenly KDP started this war by occupying Shaqlawah, occupying my house, burning my library. We were really very much astonished. But we tried our best to prevent this war. But KDP insisted on it.

The reasons, in our analysis, are three:

First, they are stealing, robbing the government of the revenue of the regional government since May 1994. And they promised in the parliament, Mr. Barzani personally promised there, to comply with the decision taken unanimously for giving all these revenues to the government. This was first done in July 25, 1994, in a resolution passed by the parliament. Both Mr. Barzani and myself promised to obey. In our side, we gave back all the customs and other revenues to the government. Mr. Barzani's party delayed, postponed it. And daily they had another pretext. Then, Mr. Barzani himself promised to give the revenue and I have two letters written by his hand to me, promising to give all back. But then suddenly, at the end of the year, Mr. Barzani said that the money had been taken by Nechirwan (Barzani, his nephew) and that he cannot give it back. I think their main reason was to launch this war and cover this robbing, the stealing of the money, because once there is war, everything will ask for the end of bloodshed and forget about these revenues.

The other reason: The relation between Turkey, Mr. Barzani and Baghdad is clear. I think it was your newspaper that published, from the mouth of Mr. al-Sahhaf (the Iraqi foreign minister who visited Ankara last month) that they have good relations with Mr. Barzani and they have contacts with them.

TDN—But Mr. Barzani denied it and we also published the denial.

Talabani—Yes, he denied it, but it is not true. We are sure, everyone is sure that they have good relations with Baghdad. Nechirwan visited Baghdad twice last year. Their contacts with Baghdad are very clear. This is the other reason. They want to facilitate the violation of international sanctions against Iraq through Faida (the border between the Kurdish zone and government held Iraq), to Zakho and to Turkey. You know it is the violation of the international sanctions when they are permitting the oil of Iraq to go to the area.

The third reason is the KDP became very weak in the last year. KDP lost popularity among the people, even in the Dahuk area—traditionally his base of power—where there is now other groups, parties emerging and working. In all elections of democratic organizations, workers, peasants, teachers, doctors, engineers, in all these, they lost. We got documents that they were very much afraid of elections among the students. It was decided to hold these student elections they refused it. And we got documents from their headquarters. They say that "we are sure that KDP will be overcome in the colleges and universities and for that we are not ready to participate." They became very weak in a political sense. So they are making this war to recontrol the area, particularly with the promised support from Turkey, Iran and Iraq. And they got the support of these three countries openly.

We tried our best to stop it. From the beginning we proposed an immediate ceasefire. They refused. Then, the religious men of Kurdistan. They have their union. They came to me with four proposals. I signed for them and agreed. They went to Mr. Barzani, he refused. Later, 17 small Kurdistan parties gathered and presented a letter incorporating proposals, to me and Mr. Barzani. I signed and agreed; Mr. Barzani refused. Kurdish parliamentarians in the parliament; they made many proposals, I agreed with all of them. Mr. Barzani refused. Then all these groups gathered together in the parliament and made proposals for both of us. I agreed and Mr. Barzani refused. Americans and Turks came and made some proposals, Mr. Barzani refused; I agreed.

He is taking the city of Irbil as pretext. Well, we say let us give Irbil and Zakho in the same day to the Iraqi National Congress (INC) and the 17 Kurdish parties. They occupied Dahuk, Zakho and they are controlling the government from working. Because a government without revenues cannot live, it cannot stay. We made many proposals for solving the question of Irbil. For instance, we proposed that Irbil be demilitarized. Secondly, we made another proposal, saying we were ready to give Irbil the same day with (the KDP withdrawal from) Zakho and give it to the INC. They are insisting in keeping Shaqlawah, Zakho and Dahuk in their hands and refusing the control of Irbil to PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan]. We are saying let us give all these cities to the government, or to the INC, or to the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, or to these 17 parties. They are insisting on continuing the war. They think that they will gradually win this war, because they have the revenue of Ibrahim Halil—the Kurdish name for the Habur customs point between Turkey and Iraq—. They have 75 percent of the government revenue in their hands while we have 75 percent of the population and the area in our hands. And this means that we are obliged to feed these people, to give salaries to these people. They think that gradually we will face difficulties and fail to solve them. Especially, they have put another embargo on the people. They are preventing the people (in PUK-controlled areas) from getting foodstuffs from Turkey and this has caused the rise of prices in the area. And they think that they can gradually get support from Iran and Turkey and Iraq while we are alone and have no supporter. Because of that, they think that they will gradually gain more strength. That's why they are refusing the cease-fire now.

Now, PUK has achieved victories. Political victories, military victories.

TDN—Like what?

Talabani—For military victories, the main cities are in our hands. the biggest population is in our area. The bulk of the lands are in our area. the KDP couldn't get these cities. The KDP is totally isolated from the people because they have refused all these proposals made by them. And they have put an embargo on all these cities, preventing them from getting water, food. And KDP is committing some crimes that no one can accept. For instance, shelling civilians, killing these children and injuring the ones you have seen (from Shawez). Days ago, they also bombarded Bnislawa which is a camp for refugees from Karkuk. They killed also civilians from there. In Rawandoz, they killed many civilians. they destroyed the town. Well all these are affecting the people. they say 'Saddam did the same with us.' Now, a Kurdish party is coming and doing the same. For what?

In al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil we captured KDP men throwing bombs at houses. Blowing up electricity and water distribution systems. All these happened here and of course, the people are dissatisfied with this policy. The head of the Kurdish union of religious men, he is a doctor from (Egypt's) al-Azhar university. He came to me with a delegation of 35 religious men, and also went to Barzani. And after that he came to me and said I told Mr. Barzani "Look Mr. Barzani, put yourself instead of us from Irbil. We are going to a man who is controlling Irbil, telling exactly that he is ready to give back Irbil to you, to INC. To 17 parties. And coming to you, you say that "We will destroy Irbil with artillery; We will do so and so; Irbil without KDP must not exist... Whom will you like, whom will you vote for, whom will you respect?" This is an example. All these are proving that KDP is thinking that by military force they will defeat us in future. They think they are growing and we are losing because they think that PUK has no money to pay for the peshmerga. And this 70 percent of the population, that is, about three million people are in need of food and we have to pay the salaries of the civil servants and we will face many difficulties and then we will fail. That is the reason why Mr. Barzani is refusing an immediate cease-fire and stopping the fighting.

TDN—They say they are not going to launch a direct attack on Irbil not to cause civilian casualties, but that they will definitely force you out of the city because it is the capital for the region. But they say they will employ other means. But they say that if PUK unconditionally withdraws from the city, that will be a ground for peace. So why not?...

Talabani—First, they cannot oblige us to leave Irbil. It seems to me like Chiang Kai-Shek's claim. He was controlling all of China when he was kicked out to Taiwan, although he would always say that he would go and liberate the mainland. Well they were in Irbil and we kicked them out. (Laughing) How can they come back? Why couldn't resist in the city if they had come back? Why couldn't resist in the city if they had the support of the majority of the people as they say. They lost the city because they lost the support and sympathy of the people, and even that of their fighters. They had three-thousand-seven-hundred-I don't-know-strong army (in the city) and only a few hundred remained with them. The people left them. For that, Irbil fell so easily to the hands of PUK. In Karkuk province—outside the Iraqi-held oil city—and al- Sulaymaniyah area, they were easily kicked out.

TDN—And what happened in (formerly PUK-held) al-Shaqlawah?

Talabani—In Shaqlawah, they started the war there. And when they started the war, I telephoned Mr. Barzani. I told him "Please stop the fighting." He said "I'll do my best." He promised and then he did not fulfill his promise. Then they attacked my house in Shaqlawah, they robbed and burned it. Then Fadil Mirani—a senior KDP official—telephoned me. Said it was so shameful, and that they had no face to talk to me, that they did not know how to apologize and so on. I said "Dear brother, don't be sorry. Tell Mr. Barzani not to worry. My house is not worth a drop of one peshmerga's blood. Please stop fighting. Now you are continuing the fighting. Stop fighting and don't care about my house. I will forgive you again. You had burned my house in Salah ad Din—KDP stronghold—and I had forgiven you again." He said "thank you very much, I am very glad to hear that and I will tell Mr. Barzani and he can talk to you." Mr. Barzani indeed came through and talked to me: "I am so shameful, I am sorry, and I will kill those who attacked etc..." and I said "Don't worry. Please stop fighting." Of course I knew that it was not true. The Communist Party told us and Mr. Barzani. That a cadre of the Communist Party had heard from one KDP commander in Shaqlawah that they will not stop fighting until they will burn the house of Mam Jalal—"Uncle Jalal" as Talabani is popularly called—there. I said "Never mind, stop caring for it and let the fighting stop." And he promised. Secondly, they attacked the headquarters of the PUK there defended only by 32 peshmerga. After fighting for two days, I daily telephoned Mr. Barzani and said: "Please, Shaqlawah was in our hands and I evacuated it for your sake. You promised its safety with your honor. You said that you will never occupy it. Leave it. We have left it for everybody's sake. Now leave it to normalize the situation. We have altogether 92 peshmerga. From the police, the peshmerga, 35 guards of my house, about 30 of the administrator of the city and the others are guard of the (PUK) headquarters and the police and the secret police. This is not a force that can challenge you. There are 32 to 92 simple people there." He said "O.K. I will stop it this instant." And then they occupied Shaqlawah. I said "Mr. Barzani, the political bureau of the PUK is considering the occupation of Shaqlawah to be a declaration of war and there will be a response, please..." He said O.K. but did not fulfill his promise and they occupied all Shaqlawah.

And when they occupied Shaqlawah, PUK occupied some places around Irbil too to defend them, because there were news from inside the KDP that after Shaqlawah, they would occupy Irbil. And after Irbil, they will attack Koy Senjaq and other places. We were, of course, obliged to defend ourselves. We occupied Irbil in stages. First we occupied some places to protect Irbil, and then, two branches of the KDP remained for days and then they launched an attack from inside and outside to capture the city. We protect Irbil from external attack and we were obliged to occupy these two KDP forces to totally control the city. When we did it, they tried with all their means to attack and take it back, but could not do it. And they failed in other places too. they tried to occupy Rawandoz; they failed. They tried to open the way from Balisan to Rania; they failed. Here in al-Sulaymaniyah area, they tried to seize Sayyed Sadiq twice, but they failed. And with Iranian support, coming from inside Iranian territory, they tried to occupy Penjwin, but they failed.

And after all these failures, they are hiding behind this pretext of Irbil. We are ready to give Irbil to the regional government. I proposed it, but when I told him this he refused it. I said we are ready to give Irbil to the regional government, to the governor of Irbil who is a member of the KDP. But according to the resolutions passed by the local parliament. There is a resolution about clearing all the cities from armed forces. Disarming the towns, the cities. We are ready to do it. We are ready to give Irbil to 17 parties. We are ready to give Irbil to INC. But to control and guarantee the safety of the people and the security of the town—because it is a big town and the capital of the Iraqi Kurdistan. We have proposed all these things and we are ready to do it.

TDN—But they are saying exactly the same thing. That not one soldier from either party should stay in Irbil. It should be completely turned over to INC or other neutral groups.

Talabani—These are our proposals. But they don't want them. They want the former status. They want the KDP forces to come back to the city to remain, but we are opposed to this. We want to disarm the city and not only Irbil. We are ready to do it in al- Sulaymaniyah. We are ready to do it in Koy Senjaq. We are asking it to be done in Saqlawa, Dahuk, Zakho, everywhere. We are for disarming all towns of Kurdistan, and pushing back the PUK and KDP peshmerga to the mountains. And to give the towns to the local government will ensure the rule of law. And peshmerga must go to the front with Iraq to liberate Mosul, Karkuk and other places. This is our demand and plan. We were ready and we are ready now to leave immediately.

TDN—But simultaneously with Zakho?

Talabani—With Zakho, Dahuk, Shaqlawah and everywhere. The disarming of all towns together with Irbil. But beginning with Irbil, we will accept.

TDN—Tomorrow?

Talabani—Tomorrow—if not tonight.

TDN—Another accusation is that you have also kept money from the regional government. There was an accounts commission but it said it was not able to see how the revenues were spent. That the government used the money accumulated in the banks but failed to make an account for all that.

Talabani—It is not true. We made a suggestion like this. The committee opens an investigation with members from experts, from the INC, from the Kurdistan front, to go to all banks, all customs points, all revenue sources, to investigate how much was taken and how it was spent. And if there was anything that remained, the PUK will give it to the government to the last dinar, provided the KDP enters the same commitment. It is true, there was money in the banks. But from May 1994 till now, the government has been paying salaries, including the salaries of the KDP. The KDP was not receiving its own allotment from the revenue of Dahuk. It was getting it from the Bank of the Region (central bank). And days ago the minister of finance published the list. You can see it in Kurdistani Nuie (New Kurdistan, the official newspaper). About three million dollars they received from May 1994 to the end of the year from the central government. This is one.

Second: From May to the end of the year, 200,000 civil servants received their salary. From where? From the Central Bank. And the peshmerga and the militia forces received their salaries from the central government. Including those of the KDP and other parties. Also in Dahuk and everywhere, not only in this area. KDP received the most, about 30 million dinars from this. Mr. Barzani received 160,000 dollars monthly himself as a member of presidency.

We are still asking for a committee of investigation, a fact- finding mission to go to everywhere, every bank, to look for the money sources and see how they were spent and if PUK owes, it must pay, if KDP owes, it must pay. This is, I think a just and fair proposal.

TDN—What about elections?

Talabani—We are for elections. You know, the KDP made a big fuss about elections. But when Turkey said "No; we are against elections," they sat down and were silent. They obeyed Turkish orders. We are for elections. We think that there should be a census first, to prepare the constituencies for the voting and then there will be an election. And we think that the only way to solve the problem now is an election. A free election.

TDN—Without an agreement (As after the last one when the two major parties agreed to doctor the result to give them a 50-50 share in the parliament and the government).

Talabani—Without an agreement. An election under the control of the international community or MCC (U.S.-led Military Coordination Center based in Zakho and supervising the truce with Iraq), or Iraqi Kurdistan Front, or INC, and we are ready to announce from now that we will obey and respect the result of the election.

TDN—So you say they created a pretext to avoid elections on Turkey's instructions.

Talabani-Not instructions. Let's say for the sake of Turkey. You know they are receiving money and everything from Turkey and Iran. Both Iran and Turkey were against the Paris agreement. KDP violated its promise and its signature, when in reality, they violated the agreement of Paris. Turkey was not satisfied, Iran was not satisfied, Iraq was not satisfied. Therefore they retreated from their signature. Sami Abdurrahman signed the agreement in the name of Mr. Barzani. According to this agreement there must be an election and both sides promised to respect the results of the election. Now they are against this Paris agreement. And why they are so? Because they want to satisfy Turkey and Iran and Iraq. That is the reason.

TDN-It is amazing to see that how both sides say the very same things and there is still no agreement. I spoke with Mr. Barzani as well and he says the same things. They want the election and you are avoiding it. They want the accounting and you are refraining. They want peace, you don't. They are ready for the agreement, an unconditional agreement, you are not.

Talabani-So, well, you can ask the 17 Kurdish parties who mediated between us, ask the religious men. Ask them, who agreed and who refused. And then you will see who is lying and who is telling the truth.

TDN-This rhetoric will apparently lead to nowhere. For the positions are set now. Can there be a new proposal from either side to break the deadlock. To create a way out of the impasse?

Talabani-There is now a proposal from the INC. We agreed, and I think Mr. Barzani has also agreed, to stop fighting for a while.

TDN-But they say that afterwards you attacked Kasnazan (near Irbil).

Talabani-They attacked Rawandoz, they attacked Hiran, they attacked Balisan, they attacked Penjwin and we attacked Kasnazan. Why not? In a war you cannot give the enemy a free initiative to attack anywhere it wants. Of course, if it attacks me at Rawandoz, if I can attack it at another place, I will do it. But who is refusing the cease-fire? Who is refusing to declare a cease-fire? Ask all Kurdish parties. I had signed all these agreements. But Mr. Barzani was refusing to sign a cease-fire unless Irbil will be evacuated by the PUK. And we are putting this condition: We are not ready (to withdraw) unless a cease-fire is announced. Because, with a war going on, how can we evacuate Irbil. There must be peace, then I must leave Irbil. Otherwise, why must I leave Irbil? And how I can do it?

TDN-Is there a chance for peace so that you can make good your pledge?

Talabani-Now, there is something new. It's that they have seen that they cannot take it by force, they have failed in their attempts to reoccupy Irbil, and they know that they cannot do it, that in the military field they cannot defeat the PUK although they have the support of Turkey, Iran and Iraq. For that, there is a new proposal by the INC and I think we have both agreed. For the past two days there has been an unofficial cease-fire, except this shelling of Shawes and Bnislawa.

TDN-And you think it will last?

Talabani-At least for a week or two. It should go on.

TDN-You say KDP is supported by Turkey and Iran and the KDP says you are supported by Iraq.

Talabani-Let them show their documents. And you, as a journalist, you see what Iraq has said about them and about us. Your own government is saying. You can prove who is closer to Turkey. We or the KDP? You are from Turkey. It is clear. You can ask your government and their role, they can explain. It is very clear. The Iraqi foreign minister said that—contacts between Baghdad and the KDP—and your newspaper published it and not ours. Look at the Iraqi newspapers. Whom they are attacking and whom they are supporting. Two days ago, a very important agent of the Saddam Kamil came, he appeared on television and revealed the relations of Barzani with Baghdad. This is very clear. And as to Iran, from where the Barzanis are coming? And who is shelling rockets and artillery for them. This is very clear. Their cooperation with Iran is denied by neither the INC, nor the Americans, nor any of the Iraqi Kurdish parties. Ask everyone. They are transferred by the Iranian lorries and cars from halabja to Penjwin and they came to attack Penjwin from Iran. This is the only border they have with the Iranians. They are shelling for them, they are coming from there. And when we are pushing them, they are going back into Iran. Ask the Iranian Kurdish parties, all of them know that KDP has very good relations with Tehran and Iran supports them and provides arms, ammunition, Katyushas, everything. And this is not a secret. I think everyone knows. Of course, they have to deny, but in reality they cannot.

And you know your government's attitude towards us and Mr. Barzani.

TDN-It seems that you are convinced that the Turkish Government has a tilt towards the KDP and a bias against you. On what grounds you base this assumption?

Talabani-You know our relation was very good when Mr. Turgut Ozal was the president and Mr. Suleyman Demirel was the prime minister. When Madame Tansu Ciller seized the power, gradually our relation with Turkey became weaker and weaker. I think there are three main reasons:

First, there are certain circles in Turkey. They believe that the PUK has a program for Kurdish national identity. They are thinking that PUK is behind this Kurdish parliament, behind this Kurdish figurative government, PUK is behind the Paris agreement, it is supporting the Paris agreement. And they are not satisfied with this policy. They think that this will create a danger for them in the future. This is the first reason. The second reason is the issue of the PKK [Workers' Party of Kurdistan]. Certain circles in Turkey were not satisfied with our efforts to stop the fighting, to persuade [PKK leader] Abdullah Ocalan to declare a cease-fire, to stop the bloodshed in Turkey. And when it failed, this unilateral declaration of cease-fire, they said that Talabani helped the PKK to gain it time to rebuild its forces. And they are thinking that we are cooperating with the PKK. But when we had the meeting with the Turkish generals and diplomats, we proved for them that we are not supporting the PKK, we are not cooperating with the PKK and our presence in the press conference of Mr. Ocalan was not behind their back. I told President Turgut Ozal, "Rahmetli" (God blessed) Turgut Ozal, Mr. (Erdal) Inonu and Mr. Demirel, and I wrote him a letter and I went to Turkey to explain them everything. It was not behind them. It was not against them. I tried to do it in coordination with them. But now, some certain circles are using it as a tool, as a pretext against us.

They are blinding their eyes to the presence of the PKK forces in the (KDP-controlled) Dahuk area, but they are seizing as a pretext on this small camp of PKK at (PUK-controlled) Bote, near Rania which is a small one, some 200 PKK members are there, most of them are women and invalids, while thousands of PKK militants and peshmergas are in Dahuk area, in the area of Mr. Barzani and they are blinding themselves to it.

TDN-What is the third reason you have mentioned?

Talabani-Certain Chauvinist Turkish circles see that we are a Kurdish force. We have good relations with some Kurds of Turkey. Especially with Ahmet Turk and his parliamentarian group. We are not against them. They think that we are the main danger in Iraqi Kurdistan. I think these are the three reasons why they are not satisfied with us. I think, if I was Turk and a Turkish politician, they would still not be satisfied with me, because then I would have the same attitude of some Turkish intellectuals who are for democratization and human rights and a political solution for the Kurdish issue. And they are not happy with these slogans.

TDN-So, what needs to be done to dispel this atmosphere of distrust?

Talabani-I think the distrust will remain. Because I lost all my trust and confidence in Mr. Barzani. And I think it is the same with him. Let us not deceive ourselves. I got many, many promises, written promises from Mr. Barzani. He did not respect his signature and his promises, about the revenues, about my house in Salahadin, my house in Shaqlawah, about relations between the KDP and PUK, about the relations with Turkey and Iraq, he didn't respect his promises at all. And I lost my trust and confidence. I don't trust him at all. And I am sure, he does not trust me now. There is no trust between us. There is no confidence. But we can live as two rival political parties. Let us not fight each other, let us fight in election boxes; not by bullets. For instance, you have the ANAP [Motherland Party] party and the DYP [True Path Party] party. They are rivals. But they take on each other in the parliament, not in the battlefield. Let us have the same.

TDN-But you have military traditions. Both of you were guerrilla movements. So, in order to evolve towards a democracy, are you ready to disband your guerrilla forces?

Talabani-Yes! This is one of the main difference between us. And that is one that Mr. Barzani is refusing. The Americans and the Turks, when they came, one of their conditions was to disband, to dismiss all the militia forces. We accepted, he refused. One of the agreements in Paris was to disband and dismiss this militia and to have a regular force for the people and for the government. He is refusing. And now we are ready to dismiss and disband these military forces and let us have, like all the countries in the world, a force responsible to the government; not to political parties.

TDN-And Why is he refusing?

Talabani-Because he knows that his party will be very weak without it. He is refusing two things: First this disbanding of the militia forces, and second, the relation with old leaders of Jashes (literally donkeys, a term used to denote pro-Iraq Kurds), the chiefs of Jashes. He has gathered with him the majority of the chief of Jashes. The ex-Jashes. These people are hated by the people. He is supported by the ex-Baathists. Members of the Baath party. And chief tribes loyal to Baghdad are siding with Mr. Barzani. Chief tribes, who are respecting themselves are either neutral or with us. Mr. Barzani is always promising how to deal with these tribes, and is still in relation with Baghdad. Mercenaries of Baghdad, Still he mercenaries of Baghdad, not in the past. [sentence as published] He is saying good words and has signed with us many things, but when it comes to implementing them, he is refusing. Because he will lose a lot of his forces. A big part of Mr. Barzani's forces is coming from these people. I can give you the names of many of these well known mercenaries who are still with Mr. Barzani. And he is not for ending the militia forces because he cannot work as a political party without them.

How they can, for example, control the revenue of Ibrahim Halil of Badinan (northern part of the Kurdish zone controlled by Barzani) if they have no peshmerga forces there.

TDN-Coming back to the question of trust, what should be done to improve the atmosphere between Turkey and your PUK?

Talabani-First of all, I think it is very difficult with this cabinet. With the cabinet of Mrs. Ciller. She is not ready for any kind of dialogue with us. I wrote her two letters. She did not answer. I think there are certain circles, for the reasons that I have said, do not want good relations with PUK. But we need to clarify something for the public opinion of Turkey. For example, our attitude towards an independent Kurdistan. There are many people, including Mr. Ecevit, they think that we are planning for an independent Kurdistan. We need to explain our attitude as a political party to the public opinion of Turkey about this.

Secondly, there are certain circles, that think that we are cooperating and coordinating with the PKK against Turkey, which is not true. We need to clarify these confusions.

There are also on our side we have certain suspicions. For instance, always the Turkish officials, diplomats whom we meet try to persuade us, encourage us to negotiate with the Iraqi dictatorship, while we are trying with other Iraqi opposition forces to overthrow the dictatorship and to replace it with a democratic, federative, pluralistic system. I think we have some political differences with the current Turkish Government. They want us to live with Baghdad, the Baghdad of dictatorship. We don't want to be with a dictatorship in Baghdad. This is a big difference between us.

We are also sometimes thinking that Turkey is not a whole system. For example, still I think that we can have good relations with President Demirel. I believe that we can talk to him, we can explain to him and we can build a very good relation with him as we had in the past. But with Madame Tansu Ciller who refuses all kinds of negotiations or contact with us, I think it is very difficult.

TDN-Has she formally turned down any effort on your part to go to Turkey or to negotiate, or explain yourself?

Talabani—Well, we tried to; we wrote letters. Our representative in Turkey was not received for months and months until he was obliged to leave the country. After these events only, they were ready to listen to him. Now, we got many promises from Celal Aydin, other generals of Turkey and none of these promises were implemented. Every time they were saying next time, and nothing. We also proposed to send a delegation; they refused it. Not by saying no; don't come,' but they did not answer. We wrote letters, they did not answer. We said we are ready to send you a highest-level delegation, even we proposed to send (regional government chief and senior PUK official) Khosrat and other members of the political bureau, they did not answer. Those who came or who are here for various Turkish organizations whom we are in contact with, promised but there is no answer from Ankara, which means that yes, they are refusing. They refused any kind of contact or explanation. Even they refused to call me to the court at the trial of these Kurdish MPs. You know they asked me as a witness, but they did not agree. I was ready to go. It means that they do not want a relation with us. They do not want to say officially, openly. But in practice, in reality, yes, they don't.

TDN-What should Turkey do, in your opinion to contribute to the peace and stability in northern Iraq?

Talabani-The same what "Rahmetle" Ozal did, the same what Mr. "Sayin" Demirel did. Nothing else. Now, I think, the policy of Mr. Ozal and the policy of Mr. Demirel is abandoned. A new policy is ruling Turkey and this new policy is not for peace and stability in the north.

TDN-In more concrete terms, what can they do?

Talabani-Well, they can do a lot. For example they can invite both Mr. Barzani and Talabani to Ankara, they can mediate, they can pressurize those who are not for peace, for stability. They can open the door for us to reach an understanding. They can listen to us at least, they can have negotiations with us.

TDN-Coming back to the present situation here, without a serious intervention on the part of Turkey, or allies, or with a new plan from the INC, or the Americans, how long do you think, can this go on?

Talabani-Until the KDP is convinced that it cannot achieve military victory. And PUK will not fail.

TDN-When can this happen?

Talabani-Two, three months without the INC or American mediation. Because, as I said the KDP thinks that gradually PUK will not be able to solve problems, will face difficulties.

TDN-As for the elections you want and say the KDP is trying to avoid. When do you think they can be held, realistically?

Talabani-Well, first of all, we must have a census, monitored by an international group, or MCC, or INC. Secondly, we must have preparations for the voters: Getting the ballot cards, preparing, and then the election. I think it can be done in this year. If us, both sides are sincere, we can have the census in April or in May after the closing of the schools, we can use all teachers and students for the census and then, two, three months after, we can have the election.

TDN-Do you share the view of Mr. Barzani that the 50-50 power sharing was not a good idea after all and led to a deadlock? Do you think the balance should be broken in favor of either party?

Talabani-It was, in the beginning, our attitude. We were not for 50-50. After the election we had 44, the KDP had 44 and the other parties had 12. We said that this seven-percent barrage the KDP imposed on them must be finished. And that all the parties, even if they collected one percent of the votes, should send one delegate to the parliament. The KDP was insisting on this seven percent but it was not democratic in our view. But KDP insisted on this 50-50 in the beginning. Then we saw that it was not fair, we both decided to end it, but when we came to the Badinan province, they stopped. They said no. They are monopolizing this area, they must have it in their hands. I will give you an example in al-Sulaymaniyah which, as everyone knows, is a stronghold of the PUK. In al-Sulaymaniyah, there are three factories. The minister of industry is from the KDP. So many of the officials and workers of these three factories are from the KDP. This is an example of how they are trying to monopolize these areas. In Badinan, we do not have 50-50, but have only 10 percent of the posts there. This is one.

The second is that this 50-50 split is not right and not just. We have asked we are asking for ending it and in the future will never agree to such a scheme.

TDN-So, let the voters decide, is that it?

Talabani-Let the voters decide, and we are in the favor of a coalition government according to the result of the election.

TDN-Or remain in opposition perhaps?..

Talabani-We think we will gain the majority. Then we will ask the other parties to cooperate with us in coalition.

TDN-Without the KDP?

Talabani-Even with the KDP, if it agrees to our program. But if the KDP does not agree, then we will cooperate with other parties. There are other parties. Kurdish parties, Turkmen parties, Assyrian parties. They must participate in a coalition. This is one of our differences. Although they are not so brave to say this openly, they have written about it. For example: Assyrians, or the Christians. While we are for their participation in the government while they are hating the Assyrians. They killed one of their deputies in the parliament. They are hating their leader; they are trying by all means to prevent their presence. They obliged them to leave their land. Christians suffered too much from the KDP. They are afraid to tell it openly, but go and talk to them secretly and they will tell you stories about that.

Secondly, about the Turkmens. When the Turkmens came and asked to be represented, we agreed. They said we want one deputy premiership and two ministries, we agreed. But KDP refused it. They published an article in Gulan—the KDP newspaper—saying they (the Turkmens) want to have a new Cyprus here and they want to Turkmenize the area. They published an appeal in their newspaper against the Turkmen demands. For example, the Turkmens in Irbil. They have their schools.

TDN-How Many Turkmens are there by the way? The estimates differ radically.

Talabani-Some thousand families in the area of the regional government.

TDN-They say they number at least two million.

Talabani-In all Iraq, they say, but I think it is a very big exaggeration. I can give you a booklet published by the Iraqi secret police in 1977. About their leaders. About Kurds, the Turkmens. In 1977, the number of Turkmens were about 236,000. If you double it now, it will be half a million. I think it is not more than half a million. But let us wait for the real census in the future. I hope that there will be five million Turkmens. After all it reduce the hegemony of Arab nationalism in Iraq. It is not against our interests. But if one has to be accurate, I think they are between five to six hundred thousand.

TDN-About the Feb. 27 car bombing in Zakho which claimed nearly 80 lives and injured many others. It is the most serious act of terrorism I have witnessed here so far. Who do you think did it?

Talabani-I think the Iraqi intelligence service is behind it and it is not new in Iraq. We had it in al-Sulaymaniyah, we had it in Kairkuk. We had it in Irbil. We had it in other places of Kurdistan; in Dahuk, all these had been done by the Iraqis and I think they are still doing it. So I think this one, too, was prepared by the Iraqi intelligence service.

KDP is trying to use it against us, because the KDP has committed crimes against the civilians. You have seen these children killed by the KDP bombardment of Shawes. Civilians were killed in Rawandoz by the KDP shelling. Civilians were killed in Bnislawa, people were killed in al-Sulaymaniyah. And electricity was exploited by the KDP and people were arrested and came to television and confessed. KDP is trying to cover all these crimes committed openly by its forces, to accuse the PUK. PUK is against all these kinds of acts. In Zakho, we have the strongest of our organizations in Badinan. We have a lot of supporters, friends, members in Zakho. and we are, of course, against killing our own people.

And we have no way of reaching Zakho. You know this. All the roads are under the control of the KDP. Of course, we thing hat the first responsible is the Iraqi regime and the second responsible is the KDP. Because the KDP is responsible for the security of the people in the area, as PUK is responsible for the security of the people in Irbil, in al-Sulaymaniyah. If something happens KDP and PUK will be asked 'Why are you not guaranteeing the security of the people where you are ruling.?' I think the KDP has a secondary responsibility in this and its special relationship with Iraqi regime is helping Baghdad to send such kinds of cars to commit these crimes.

TDN-One last question. You were reported earlier to have urged Ankara to close the border to force the KDP into negotiations with PUK...

Talabani-We are not for closing of the border at Ibrahim Halil, but for preventing the violation of international sanctions against Iraq. But to open the border for humanitarian assistance, for food, for medicine, both for Iraq and the Iraqi Kurdistan, I think it is a just and fair position. But there is now permission to Iraq to produce oil and send some to Turkey to sell it. This is a violation of the international sanctions and this must be stopped.

Regime Reportedly Transferring Kurds South

LD1403131695 Tehran IRNA in English 1256 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kurdestan Prov., March 14, IRNA—Iraqi regime has started moving 13,000 Kurdish families from Karkuk region to the southern part of that country, a radio run by the Patriotic Union of Kurdestan (PUK) said.

The radio, monitored here, reported on Tuesday [14 March] that simultanously with their attacks on Kurdish controlled areas in northern Iraq, Iraqi troops have resumed arresting and exiling Kurds of Karkuk, Khanaqin and Jelola regions.

The radio also said that some headquarters have been set up by the Baghdad regime to register the names of Kurdish families for forcible transfer to the southern regions of Iraq.

Kurdish Villages Said Shelled; Troops Massed

NC1403160095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of tyrant Saddam have renewed their shelling of a number of Kurdish villages inside the safe haven in Iraqi Kurdistan. Islamic opposition sources cited reliable sources that the large-caliber artillery shelling targeted peaceful villages and defenseless civilians. The sources said the concentrations of regime forces near the northern Iraqi governorates show malicious intentions of launching a large-scale aggression against Kurds in Kurdistan. Earlier, Kurdish sources said that one civilian has been killed and eight others have been injured in the artillery shelling over the past few days.

Barzani Demands Talabani Groups Leave Irbil

JN1503100895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Kurdish names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—Mas'ud Barzani has given an ultimatum to Jalal Talabani's troops to immediately evacuate Irbil and move to al-Sulaymaniyah.

AL-JUMHURIYAH cites observers in the area as saying that Mas'ud Barzani's troops are now massing on the Irbil-Mulla 'Umar, Irbil-Bahirkah, and Irbil-Kalik roads. These troops are led by Sa'd 'Abdallah, Jamal Bunakinah, and Abu-Bakr al-Zibari and are under the direct supervision of Nayjarfan Barzani. They are supported by Awham Barzani group which has close links to Mas'ud Barzani.

The observers expect very fierce battles between the two parties. Talabani's gangs are preparing to repel Barzani's forces on several axes. Talabani's forces comprise Regiment 37, led by Nur; Regiment 38, led by 'Umar Nasir; and regiments led by Gafah Muhammad Zi, Anwar 'Aziz Bamri, 'Uthman Bani Marani, and Mulla 'Akriz. They are all supervised by Kusrat Rasul.

National Congress Divided Over PUK Powers

LD1403171395 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahabad (West Azerbaijan), March 14, IRNA—A row has erupted among members of the so-called Iraqi National Congress following transfer of parts of administration bureaus to regions controlled by Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). A spokesman of the Kurdish Hizballah of Iraq disclosed here on Tuesday [14 March] that Ahmad Chalabi, a member of the Iraqi National Congress, has arbitrarily transferred some administrative apparatus of northern Iraq to the cities of Irbil, Kou Senjaq and al-Sulaymaniyah which are under control of PUK.

The spokesman added that many forces of the Iraqi National Congress have laid down their arms to protest Chalabi's decision.

The Iraqi National Congress was formed with western blessings after the Persian Gulf war. It is based in London and claims to represent various opposition groups.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Officials, Commanders

JN1403193295 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has presided over a meeting that was attended by several officials and military commanders. The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the defense minister.

Saddam Discusses Education at Cabinet Meeting

NC1403074395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stated that we must not allow ordinary administrative affairs to control any vital issue that concerns the people or to control the mechanism for its implementation. We must form alternate channels to ensure the smooth running of the people's affairs until the old traditional channels are amended and streamlined. He said the change of individuals must be viewed as a temporary solution, because the important thing is to streamline and amend the mechanisms of work to ensure better performance and follow-up procedures. The employees involved in streamlining this mechanism must have a material and moral interest in it, because any illegal dealing will lead to corruption and deviation.

President Saddam Husayn said the most important thing for us is the human being, not the projects. What is the value of projects if weak supervision and control lead to deviation and corruption?

President Saddam Husayn was addressing the 11th cabinet meeting. The cabinet discussed coordination between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research on policy regarding educational preparation and admission to Iraqi institutes and universities.

During the discussion President Saddam Husayn stated the need to measure development in education according to our targets for a specific period. We must have all the motives and incentives that will enable development to rise to a more qualitative and more comprehensive level commensurate with this phase.

He said: Making comparisons with Western educational policies and programs is not wrong, but we must understand the circumstances of these policies and programs, which differ among the Western societies themselves. So why should we not be different from them? For example, if the British capitalist education system is interested in choosing the cream of society from a few intellectuals, we want the cream to come from a wider scale in our society, because we are socialists. It is important for us to create formulas to achieve these objectives by building the reputation of the schools, the school boards, and the teaching staff and granting the school boards enough flexibility and moral and material incentives to make them feel that they have an interest in maintaining a high level of success.

The education sector must encourage students to study so that they will see life through study, not through other facades.

President Saddam Husayn said: We are in a phase in which readymade ideas and recipes do not benefit us, because our circumstances require unusual recipes. The ways of dealing with issues must be different from what they were 20 years ago, because development and change have created gaps in most sectors of life. It is important to involve citizens in this effort because their participation makes them feel that this effort is important. We must encourage them to play a better educational role within the family.

It was decided to reconsider the study submitted by the joint committee of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in accordance with the guidelines set out by President Saddam Husayn. The Cabinet discussed other topics on the agenda, including some organizational issues, and adopted the necessary measures.

Sources Satisfied With Christopher Announcement

TA1403201595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Satisfaction was expressed in Jerusalem over Warren Christopher's announcement in Damascus to the effect that the talks between Israel and Syria will resume within a few days. Senior political sources emphasized to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that Israel has not given up its positions. [passage omitted]

Rabin Reformulates Goals of Security Arrangements

TA1503115095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Mar 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to Israeli sources, Rabin handed Secretary of State Warren Christopher a proposal containing a new formulation of the goals of the discussions on security arrangements with Syria, which did not substantially change Israel's position. [passage omitted]

The sources said that the new Israeli proposal on the security issue had to do with the definition of "symmetry" in the security arrangements, which the Syrians are demanding as a basic principle in any such agreement. Prior to the Christopher visit, Syria proposed a "deal" according to which Israel would accept the principle of symmetry while its actual implementation in the field would not be identical. Thus, for example, if a larger area was demilitarized on the Syrian side of the border than in Israel, a "compensatory mechanism" would be established in other aspects of the security arrangements.

Nevertheless, appearing yesterday before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin hinted that Israel may drop its demand for a cut in the size of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Syrian military forces. Rabin said that "there will be a problem to define what these forces are and whether reference will only be to conventional weapons." Syria vehemently opposed any downsizing of its army, claiming that Israel possessed nuclear weapons, which gave the IDF a significant qualitative advantage. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 15 March in a report by Moti Bassok and Dan Avidan on pages 1, 2 adds that "in Jerusalem yesterday, officials expressed disappointment with the understandings reached by Christopher, and especially with regard to the way they were reached. A political source in Jerusalem asserted that in this fashion, it was hard to expect significant progress at the talks Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich is slated to hold in Washington with his Syrian counterpart Walid al-Mu'allim, apparently as early as next week.

["The political source emphasized that Israel had rejected U.S. hints that Israel make a substantive concession in exchange for Syria's agreement to renew the talks."]

Peres Views Resumption of Talks With Syria

TA1503081695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Bonn, by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Zissowitz] Mr. Peres, allow me to start with the criticism we have just heard made, not by Binyamin Netanyahu, but from a member of the leftist group in your own camp.

[Peres] I heard Minister Sne's criticism. He is going a bit overboard. Who has ever offered anything for nothing? What kind of philosophy is this? He should not be on guard. No one is offering anything for nothing. Therefore, this should be disregarded. Of course Israel should make no concession before receiving a full and comprehensive peace, and no one has ever suggested otherwise. This is a futile argument.

[Zissowitz] You spoke of the fixed price Israel will have to pay.

[Peres] I did not. I spoke of a known price. Every child knows what the price is. It was determined long ago, and no one is offering to pay for nothing.

[Zissowitz] Let us, then, return to the issue itself. Can you please tell us what concessions Israel made to return Syria to the negotiating table?

[Peres] I do not believe that concessions were made at this stage. I believe that a door has opened for the resumption of the negotiations. We are in the very initial stages of it. In fact, no party has been asked to make concessions at this stage. The parties were asked to agree to resume the negotiations, which is precisely what happened.

[Zissowitz] The fact is that Christopher had to make serious efforts and run between Damascus and Jerusalem to secure the Syrian agreement. What was the price for that? Was a significant concession made or some phrasing changed?

[Peres] I do not think so. I believe that al-Asad wanted to understand Israeli and U.S. intentions. I believe that al-Asad was quite impressed by the determination of the Israeli Government to resume the negotiations. We have to divorce ourselves from the defeatism that has spread here and the talk of us losing the elections, therefore, the remarks made by both the prime minister and myself that we wish to dedicate the next 20 months to peace, worked. I also believe that the intense U.S. involvement played its part. I must add, however, that we are still before the negotiations and not after them. The road to negotiations has opened, but we have reached no conclusion.

[Zissowitz] Are you determined that the agreement must be made within the next 20 months?

[Peres] I never said that. We may make it in two months. What I said is that in the coming 20 months, we should not be dealing with politics or the primaries, but with peace and the details of the state issues.

[Zissowitz] Incidentally, what is your stand on this issue? Do you believe that we should attain an agreement with Syria only after a referendum is held or is a Knesset majority enough?

[Peres] Since the prime minister has announced that we should hold a referendum, we will, which makes your question theoretical in this respect. I believe that for the sake of the state and the young generation, we have to complete the peace process. To me, the worst thing is having to pay double the price: the price of peace and the price of its absence. Just like before, there was a situation of no war and no peace, there could be a situation of both peace and war. It may be more convenient, but the price is double. We have started the peace process, and we have to be determined and fully complete it. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 15 March carries a similar live telephone interview with Peres from Bonn. Asked about the aspect of reciprocity agreed on, Peres says that "reciprocity means that each party will take the other's needs into consideration." He refused to name the price Israel will have to pay at this stage, and when asked about his stand regarding the return to the international border, Peres says: "I have never said that, nor will I say it now or at any other time when there is no need for it." He goes on to say that the negotiations should not be postponed because "the problem is not who will be in power in Israel in three to four years, but what types of weapons will be in the Middle East in three to four years; the missiles, the nonconventional weapons, the amount of terror." "I do not think in partisan terms. I think in political and strategic terms, therefore I believe that we have to make a serious effort today to prevent a very grave situation in three to four years."]

Beilin Urges Upgrading Level of Talks With Syria

TA1503100595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Jack Katzenell "last night, after the Christopher announcement in Damascus"; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Beilin] I believe that at this moment the negotiations should be handled on the political level, the higher the better. But, the ambassadors know each other very well and they succeeded so far to achieve some important areas of agreement, and they will of course continue until the moment is ripe for the politicians to enter the scene.

[Katzenell] What happened during these past several days of contacts with the American mediators that set the stage for the resumption of the negotiations?

[Beilin] The Americans proved the importance of their involvement. They talked to us, they got some clarifications from us about our views; then they talked to President al-Asad and got his clarifications and, at the last moment, they were successful in resuming the talks. That is, of course, very important. I believe that had Americans visited the area some weeks ago, they could have achieved the same achievement, which means that their role is a kind of sine qua non for the success of the talks.

[Katzenell] Now, you have been saying that once the negotiations are resumed, it would not take very long—perhaps just, what, three, four months, several months—until they could all be wrapped up. Do you stand by that now?

[Beilin] I cannot say that about the current level. I mean, if there is a change of the level, if it is negotiations between politicians on the high level, than I believe that we need only some months. Otherwise, if the pace of the negotiations continues the same way as they were until now, I am quite doubtful about our ability to conclude the talks in several months.

Sne Urges Tough Stands on Syria, Rejects 'Defeatism'

TA1503063995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Health Minister Efrayim Sne says that Israel must present red lines in its negotiations with Syria, and that he does not accept the Foreign Minister Peres' version that Israel will have to pay a fixed price. Sne was addressing Labor activists, and our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Begin recording] [Tal] Speaking to Labor activists last night, Efrayim Sne said that Israel must stick to its position and before it announces what concessions it will make, it should know exactly what al-Asad is offering.

[Sne] We have no reason to hurry. Any time is good for a good agreement, but there is no right time for a wrong agreement with Syria. It is inconceivable that we would be asked to make very essential and tangible withdrawals, while he replies in a vague and abstract manner. We must understand exactly what type of relations he means. If he means introducing a cold, shallow, and merely formal peace, it does not justify us paying for it with strategic assets.

[Tal] Minister Sne said that although the government has made no concessions to Syria over two years of negotiations, there is the impression that it is easily yielding. He told the Labor activists that a poll he had commissioned, surveying people who voted for Labor for the first time in the last elections, showed that they will not vote for Labor again. Minister Sne said that a mood of defeatism has spread in Labor and that many members have begun speaking of returning to the opposition benches. Anyone who speaks in this way, must know that this means the termination of the process with the Palestinians, King Husayn's retracting on the agreement, a worsening of the terror situation, and serious political damage. [end recording]

Rabin Briefs Knesset on Struggle Against Extremism

TA1403174995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Mar 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was today informed of the activities of Israeli security elements against Islamic terrorism abroad. The Israeli elements have recently uncovered a Shiite city in South America of some 250,000 inhabitants in which extremist Islamic activity is going on. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who briefed the committee about this development, said that the struggle against Islamic extremism requires us to carry out intelligence activity in areas in which we never thought we would become involved. Rabin said that in Turkey the Islamic militants have started harming their Muslim brethren whom they consider too moderate. The Turkish premier asked Israel to communicate to the Western world the details of her war against Islamic extremism.

Rabin praised British Prime Minister John Major's firm stand against Iran. He added that the Americans are acting more slowly, but Clinton is showing a firm policy. In this context, Rabin warned against the American isolationist policy, which is expressed in the desire to stop the foreign aid. Rabin said that such a policy could strengthen the wave of extremist Islamic terrorism.

Rabin also referred to the apprehension in the Arab world about the advanced level of Israeli development and its openness. Rabin said circles in the Arab world regard the concept of the new Middle East as an Israeli trick for a Zionist economic takeover. In this context he admitted that the Casablanca conference somewhat slowed down the process of openness toward Israel in the region.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 14 March, in a report by Yo'el Nir on Rabin's remarks to the committee on the Syrian track, adds: "Prime Minister Rabin said that so far no agreement has been reached on the four basic points: the peace border, the withdrawal timetable, a timetable for an initial minor withdrawal, and the security arrangements."

[Asked by the committee members whether there is any change in Israel's position, Rabin is recorded as saying: "There is no change in the basic Israeli positions as presented by me so far, as you all know. Obviously the main point is that this government believes that it is impossible to attain peace without withdrawal. As you will recall, the Likud implemented a full withdrawal in exchange for peace with Egypt. Likud members can now come up and say that a serious mistake was made which should not be repeated. The Syrian demand is anchored on the Egyptian precedent, but at this stage we do not accept it."]

Major on NPT, Freezing 'Terrorist' Groups' Assets

TA1203124995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Mar 95 p 5

[Report on "special" interview with British Prime Minister John Major by Yo'av Limor in London on 10 March]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Major evades a question on the sale of British weapons to Arab countries, and says: "Looking back at the Gulf War, one ought to see what the British troops had done. They pounded the Scud missiles which were directed at Israel, and they did it with reasonable success. Out commitment to Israel's safe future has been proven.

[Limor] What is Britain's stand on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]?

[Major] We want everyone to sign the NPT. We are familiar with the problems, and we know why several countries, not just in the Middle East, have not signed. We will encourage people to sign the NPT. This has been our position, and it has not changed.

[Limor] Do you understand the Israeli position on the issue?

[Major] Certainly. However, there are other countries, which also have a potential nuclear capability. I believe signing the NPT is an Israeli interest as well as the interest of everyone. Some time ago I had to answer questions on how far Iran had got in the nuclear sphere. Iran has signed the treaty. We are putting pressure on Iran, and we are encouraging other people to pressure Iran to make it abide by its commitment to the NPT. [end Major]

Major charges Iran with responsibility for the wave of terrorist attacks in London last summer. "We believe a major part of the problems stemmed from Iran. The fact that Iran finances terrorism is indisputable. I believe it is unwarranted conduct." Nevertheless, Major rejects the possibility that Britain should follow in the United States' footsteps by freezing the terrorist organizations' assets and any charity funds affiliated with them, steps which he defined symbolic rather than practical. "I have no immediate intention of doing so, because I do not think it will be effective." Major points out that Britain has been taking "practical steps against terrorism, and will continue doing so in the future."

Major Meets With Rabin, Departs

TA1403193395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] British Prime Minister held a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin before rounding up his visit in Israel. Mr. Rabin expressed satisfaction with the recent improvement of relations with Britain, especially in the economic sphere. The businessmen who accompanied Mr. Major on his visit agreed on cooperation projects with Israel.

John Major arrived for a two-day visit in Amman a short time ago. He will discuss British-Jordanian relations and the Middle East peace process with King Husayn.

Ministry To Lobby for Maintaining U.S. Aid Levels

TA1403151795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Mar 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres "senses a weakening" in the ties between American Jewry and Israel. Peres called for efforts to strengthen relations and for a campaign to canvass the support of U.S. Jewry for the peace process.

At a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry yesterday on U.S.- Israel relations, Peres said that American Jews "visit Israel less and showed less enthusiasm." Sometimes," he noted, "they simply care less." Peres asserted that the loosening in ties is not only a result of the attitude toward the Labor government's policies, but pertains to Israel in general.

"We have to bolster the relationship," the foreign minister said. "Not only with the people from Washington and New York whom we meet with daily, the members of the Conference of Presidents and other Jewish leaders. We cannot meet with every single Jew, but we have to reach the communities in Miami, Florida, and Boston."

Peres instructed Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin to prepare a list of candidates capable of serving as Israel's representatives to American Jewry: senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, Knesset members [MK's], and academics. The envoys will mainly stress the importance of the peace process.

The foreign minister said it is important to maintain U.S. aid to Israel at its present scope and stressed that the United States should not cut aid to Israel's neighbors because the economy plays a key role in securing peace and fighting terrorism.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington, also participated in the discussion. Rabinovich said that in another two or three years, Israel may encounter difficulties getting Congress to approve the civilian aid package. "Not because of Israel," Rabinovich explained, "but on account of the U.S. budget cuts which could have an impact on foreign aid."

Rabinovich also noted the need to continue aiding Israel's partners in the peace process.

Most of the meeting's participants agreed that aid to Israel is more stable than the aid to other countries and that additional progress in the peace process would guarantee its continuation. Beilin proposed examining the use of the civilian aid and said that various options should be examined "in case we fall upon hard times."

Beilin asked whether it is possible to match the scope of civilian aid to the scope of Israel's annual debt repayment to the United States. 'Oded 'Eran, the assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry's economic department, replied that there is no cause to take such action. Eran said that "the aid symbolizes Israel's importance to the United States."

Ambassador Rabinovich recommended an effort to maintain civilian aid at its current annual level of $1.2 billion and stressed the issue's political significance. In conclusion, the participants decided to make efforts to maintain the aid at its present level.

Indyk Appointment Viewed as 'Somewhat Strange'

TA1403191395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Mar 95 p B1

[Article by 'Amira Segev: "A Friend, But Not One of the Boys"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nobody doubts U.S. Ambassador-Designate Martin Indyk's talents and his knowledge of the Middle East in general and Israel in particular. No previous American ambassador has been so familiar with the Israeli scene, and he justifiably says that he has come home. Nevertheless, the appointment is also being viewed as somewhat strange.

At the moment, it is being said in Washington and Jerusalem that the only one to benefit is Martin Indyk, who was very much interested in getting the post. Bill Clinton is losing a senior member of his team, a highly involved official with ties in the bureaus of the Arab leaders as well as that of Yitzhaq Rabin, which cut down a lot of bureaucratic tape and prevented many crises. "We never had such ties," it is being said in Rabin's office. Rabin is losing the personal Indyk-Haber connection, which has been responsible for most of the major productions over the past two years, from the return of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to the Cairo quadripartite summit meeting.

"From our point of view, the appointment is not really all that good," a senior political figure said. "We are losing a stronghold in the White House, an informal channel, an antennae, a means to check the pulse of both sides long before an issue surfaces. If he operates according to protocol, his special status will vanish for us. On the other hand, because he is a member of the White House family he can channel things to the right ears unofficially.

Still—it is being said in Washington and Jerusalem—as ambassador, Indyk will find it difficult to put to use his special talents, his long experience, and his erudition. "Any attempt to set up direct links with Clinton and even with Dennis Ross will be regarded as bypassing authority. Instead of working directly with Clinton and Rabin, Indyk will at best now be working with a secretary of state who is much less expert than himself, and he will depend on the latter's common sense, conclusions, and evaluations. In the worst case, the ambassador will work with Christopher's aides and advisers, which will make the process much more clumsy.

"It is true that everybody is replaceable," says an American journalist now visiting Israel, "but why look for replacements for somebody so good, by giving him a marginally important job in the peace process? There is a saying in English: 'If it ain't broken, why fix it?'" "Instead of formulating policy, we will have a senior kibitzer who has been moved to the sidelines," a senior Israeli source said.

But the fact that Israel has in Washington a strong ambassador like Itamar Rabinovich, who has good ties with the White House and personal links with Indyk himself, could strengthen the position of Indyk and the diplomatic track. Rabinovich says it is an excellent appointment. He calls Indyk a talented and gifted diplomat, who knows how to get on with people and has a great deal of experience in Israeli-U.S. relations and the peace process. He knows the establishment in Israel, and it knows him.

"Martin Indyk is definitely not a party to the view that his role in Israel is a step down in rank and position," the U.S. Embassy's David Good said in Indyk's name. "The position is considered extremely important, and Indyk's involvement and his good connections are the reason for the appointment. Indyk has devoted most of his adult life to the Israel issue, and there is no intention of giving up what he took years to develop. He will remain an important member of the peace team, and the United States will continue to enjoy the benefits of his personal ties with the prime minister."

His distancing from the White House is not the only obstacle with which Indyk will have to deal. Within a short time he will find that the fact that he is Jewish—Indyk is the first Jewish U.S. ambassador in Israel—is more a burden than an asset. Israelis and U.S. Jewry will always demand from a Jew holding such a post much more than they would from a non-Jew. He will always be accused of either overinvolvement or too little involvement. Robert Pelletreau, a retired member of the peace team, was never called "a member of Peace Now" or one of "Shamir's boys." Indyk has been called both. None of the previous ambassadors have been judged by Israeli concepts of right or left, hawk or dove. Indyk has been accused of being a hawk, a dove, and a dove-hawk.

"The right wing," an Israeli expert in Israeli-U.S. relations and a friend of Indyk said, "does not like senior Jewish American officials. When Kissinger came here to work out the disengagement of forces agreement with Egypt, Gush Emunim called him 'Jew boy' and demonstrated against him in the streets. In a large article about the Jews in Baker's and Christopher's teams, Yosi Ben-Aharon was quoted as calling them 'Jew boys' (Ben-Aharon flatly denies using the term). The main difficulty to face Indyk will be the Israeli right wing, which thinks that anybody who has been circumcised has to serve it, and Indyk knows this. It will be interesting to see how he copes with the problem. On the other hand, the only pressure applied to his appointment as ambassador was not by the Arab lobby, but by Jews and Israelis close to Peace Now, who claimed he was too right wing."

Those who say that he has right-wing views simply do not understand, Yosi Ben-Aharon, former director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said. "Ross and Indyk continue the policy line of the Bush-Baker administration that the Cold War is continuing and that the United States is risking losing the Arab world if it weighs the scales in favor of Israel. I do not think it is good that the United States appointed a Jewish ambassador to Israel. It is hard for a Jew to strike the balance between his roots and his duties as the ambassador of a superpower like the United States. I do not foresee an easy life for him, since a problem does exist."

Other rightists say Indyk is a realist who understands the Middle East for what it is. "He believes," they say, "that Israel should not exist by the force of agreements with the Arabs, but by its own strength. He and Ross accepted the stand that left the PLO out of the picture and were surprised by Oslo. They thought it was a trick Peres was playing on Rabin. Indyk's views were formed during the Likud term in power. He realized that the attitude should be negotiations from a position of strength, according to which a withdrawal to the 1967 lines is out of the question, the PLO is no partner, and compromises cannot be made with smiles while caving in. Martin learned how to work with us in this spirit. His Washington institute did not dare invite PLO men before it was legitimized."

"Regardless of his personal opinions, here he presented the coolheaded approach," another right-wing activist said. "Every American who comes here as the U.S. ambassador is, first of all, the American ambassador.

Indyk was not sent here to consult with us on how to deal with the gentiles, to be one of the guys. I witnessed frightening scenes in which people would talk in the presence of Lewis at the time and Basyuni currently as if they were on our side. Some have already noted with satisfaction that the Sam Lewis era is about to return. I hope it does not."

At the same time, in the left they say that Indyk is a dove on peace and security issues and a liberal on socioeconomic issues. "He is good for the current government and problematic for Likud."

In his previous roles in AIPAC [America Israel Public Affairs Committee] and the Washington Institute for Middle East Studies, and due to his frequent and lengthy visit to Israel, Indyk made many friends here across the entire political spectrum, media, economy, and academia. This is one of the reasons why he was appointed ambassador.

"His input on domestic Israeli politics is very important at this time," a senior American commentator has said. "Will Rabin run in 1996? If he does not, who will? What is Peres' status? How would public opinion react if Baraq, Beilin, and Ramon joined? What is going on with the Likud? What are Netanyahu's red lines? Indyk has the tools to provide the correct evaluations."

During his current visit to Israel, Indyk attended all the forums of discussion with Rabin and his team, Peres and his team, and the chief of staff. A senior figure said that "the way I see it, he will not waive his special status on the peace team, even if he is not officially a member."

Martin Indyk will be sworn in as U.S. ambassador in Israel at the State Department in Washington next week, after he successfully passed the Senate hearing that included tough questions regarding the administration's reactions to Syria's policy. Soon after that, he will accompany Vice President Al Gore on his tour of the region and, in three weeks, in the beginning of April, he will present his credentials.

U.S. Creative Role in Peace Process Viewed

TA1503115395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Mar 95 p 1

[Commentary by David Makovsky: "Activist U.S. Role Is Tradeoff With al-Asad"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's announcement last night that direct Israel-Syria peace talks would resume now after a three-month hiatus marks a significant, if implicit, political tradeoff.

While Israel traditionally likes the idea of direct talks with Arabs, and particularly Syria, there had seemed to be a sense in Damascus that the talks had no chance to succeed. The Syrians believe Israel's positions are too tough.

However, Israel Radio already announced after Christopher's statement last night that Damascus has been promised stepped-up American involvement. Thus the tradeoff seems to be clear: Damascus has agreed to restart talks, as Israel has desired, in return for a U.S. commitment to take a more active role in pressing Washington's own ideas. By all indications, U.S. involvement in the peace process has just entered a new pro-active phase.

Whether by assuming a more assertive role in the Washington negotiations or in more meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President Hafiz al-Asad, the U.S. will move from being the procedural facilitator it has been over much of the last three and a half years to being a more energetic force, by offering its own ideas on how to move the talks forward.

Christopher—who delved into the substance of security arrangements for the first time with al-Asad this week—was unmistakably clear that the U.S. will be involved in the all- important issue of security arrangements on the Golan.

While saying it is the parties who must make peace, Christopher also said: "It is my role to try to be helpful, creative, supportive, and inventive; to provide options for the parties and help them get together on what will inevitably be one of the most difficult issues of this peace process between them."

Christopher Shuttle 'Breakthrough' Ridiculed

TA1503150095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Mar 95 p 2

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "The Die Is Cast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres speaks the truth. He is prepared to pay the price for full peace with Syria. Such a peace has one price, which is a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, as demanded by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

While Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has so far played word games, differentiating between a "withdrawal on the Golan Heights" and a "withdrawal from the Golan Heights," Foreign Minister Peres has apparently decided to wriggle out of these formulas, or if you will, from the illusions that have so far characterized the government policy as dictated by Rabin. Peres' remarks to the Labor caucus two days ago clearly indicate where he is heading.

The talk about a "breakthrough" achieved by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in his shuttle mission between Jerusalem and Damascus is nonsensical. What kind of "breakthrough" can there be? Al-Asad, after receiving something to go on from Israel, has agreed to resume the negotiations at the ambassador or chief of staff level. So what? Is the resumption of the negotiations such a great achievement justifying a Christopher visit to the region after an ulcer surgery? The important thing is what will happen in the negotiations once they are resumed. Apparently it is not too hard to guess. Al-Asad will not make any concessions; at most he will be ready to "compromise" on the security-arrangements issue. What will happen then?

One could gauge from Christopher's entourage that Washington will no longer take a passive stand on the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, but will rather try to present compromise proposals. It is safe to assume that none of these proposals will call for even a partial Israeli presence on the Golan Heights, because such a compromise will be immediately rejected by al-Asad. The ball will be thrown into Israel's court, and the government will have to decide whether to accept the American "compromise" proposal, namely, to express agreement in principle on a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Richard Haass, who used to be in charge of Middle East affairs in the National Security Council, once wrote about the conditions for an arrangement in the region: "Political leaders must be strong enough to make a compromise, or weak enough not to foil it."

Whereas Rabin does not feel strong enough to make such a compromise at the present time, Peres seems to be leading him in that direction. Otherwise, it is difficult to understand Peres' comments to the Labor caucus on Monday [13 March]: "I am aware of the fact that there are Labor members who are against compromises on the Golan Heights. I understand them, but in our present situation we have decided to make all the difficult decisions. We will proceed full steam ahead toward peace with Syria, and we will pay the inevitable price.... we have decided.... we are not waiting to receive applause." Everything was said in the plural. Is Peres also speaking for Rabin?

Rabin's silence points to his helplessness and his fear of a direct confrontation with the foreign minister.

Peres knows that surrendering to al-Asad's demand to return the entire Golan Heights as a condition for an arrangement is not the popular thing to do. Therefore he is trying to confront his rivals—both within his party and outside it—with well-argued visions of a futuristic cataclysm. We could be faced with a missile war or a war in which nonconventional weapons would be used. Peres reasoned that in these circumstances the Golan Heights are meaningless.

One can pursue this line of thought and argue that in these circumstances there is no point in holding onto the Jordan Valley or the 'Etzyon Bloc, because in the era of missiles and nonconventional weapons territory has no strategic significance. Peres is currently talking about the "acceleration" needed on the Syrian track, because he has reached the conclusion that without full withdrawal from the Golan Heights there will be no peace with Syria.

Knesset Member 'Imanu'el Zismann asked Peres whether the price he is willing to pay for peace with Syria is a withdrawal to the 1967 borderline. Peres preferred not to go into details during the caucus meeting, but those who heard him gained the impression that as far as he is concerned, the die is cast. We must attempt to reach peace with Syria before the Knesset elections and be willing to pay the price for this. He preferred, however, not to remove his mask.

British Prime Minister Major Arrives in Amman

Describes Talks With 'Arafat

JN1403180595 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1730 GMT 14 Mar 95

[From the "News Headlines" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] British Prime Minister John Major arrived in Amman this evening for talks with his majesty the king and senior officials.

The British premier arrived in Amman from Gaza where he held talks with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. He said the European Union was willing to boost the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and supervise the upcoming elections in the West Bank and Gaza. Major pledged $121 million in aid for the Palestinians over the coming three years.

Meets With King, Crown Prince

JN1403210595 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 14 Mar 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king received British Prime Minister John Major who started an official visit to Jordan this evening. The meeting, which began a short while ago, is expected to center on bilateral ties and economic cooperation. The meeting is also expected to include a review of the recent developments in the Middle East peace process.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received the British prime minister and the accompanying economic and trade delegation. Prince Hasan addressed the British delegation and presented a briefing on the prospects of regional development and the future of cooperation with Europe, and particularly the United Kingdom. Prince Hasan called for a free trade area from the Atlantic to the Gulf encompassing 370 million people with $1 trillion in combined GDP [gross domestic product]. His royal highness also stressed the importance of peace-building and the role Europe can have in this regard.

[Begin recording] [Hasan, in progress] ...For peace-building to succeed, however, it must be institutionalized, and this surely will help achieve that trilateral partnership between governments, international business, and finance institutions. Jordan is working systematically to evolve the existing architecture of the peace process into peace institutions, and our plan of action in this respect is to cover a number of dimensions which I'll try to touch on very briefly.

Although the mass of population has led to imbalances, the total population of about 11 million in the core area—Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian territory—represents too small a market in today's globalized world. A free trade area, however, and eventually a common market from the Atlantic to the Gulf, represents a total population of about 250 million people. By including Turkey and Iran, the market size will increase to 370 million people with a combined GDP approaching $1 trillion.

[Major] Perhaps, if I may, on behalf of your guests, thank you for the thoroughness of that presentation, and just make two very brief points from the point of view of the British Government: Firstly, to endorse one point that the crown prince made. We strongly support the moves to encourage regional economic integration and cooperation. We are absolutely sure that that is the right way ahead. We think it is right from the point of view of the countries. We actually think it is right from the point of view of creating the right sort of market to encourage the investment that is necessary. So, I just wish to endorse that point. And the second point is self-evident from the purpose of the people present, and that is the self-evident need to encourage private sector involvement in the region. And I think that needs no further emphasis. [end recording]

Notes King's Efforts To Achieve Peace

JN1503081295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received British Prime Minister John Major and the accompanying delegation at Raghadan Palace last night in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. His majesty and Mr. Major held a meeting followed by an expanded meeting attended by a number of senior officials from both sides. During the meeting, the two sides discussed latest developments in the peace process. Mr. John Major said his country appreciates and values His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region. He noted his country's support for Jordan in various fields, foremost of which are the economic fields. He said his country is interested in working on providing development opportunities in this region to reinforce the peace process, consecrate its bases, and give it a comprehensive nature on all tracks. Mr. John Major also stressed the distinguished relations between Jordan and the United Kingdom and the need to reinforce them in various fields.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-Husayn; His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty the king's military secretary; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, the foreign minister; Basil Jardanah, the minister of finance; and Fu'ad Ayyub, Jordanian ambassador to the United Kingdom. The meeting was attended on the British side by a number of British officials accompanying Mr. John Major and the British ambassador in Amman.

Holds Talks With Bin Shakir, Departs

JN1503112595 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] British Prime Minister John Major concluded a visit to Jordan and left for home after a Middle East tour that took him to the Palestinian self-rule area and Israel. Premier Major and his accompanying delegation were seen off by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, cabinet members, and senior civic and military officials.

This morning the British head of government and Premier al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir held a formal round of talks. Earlier on, Mr. Major voiced admiration of the way in which his majesty the king has seized the opportunity to peace in the Middle East. He said: In doing so, Jordan has made a commitment to a better and safer future for its people and others across the area. Premier Major was speaking at a ceremony held at al-Hashimiyah Palace in suburban Amman this morning during which he announced the donation of equipment worth more than $3 million to Jordan. The British official also unveiled a number of awards and scholarships for Jordanian students in Britain.

King Said 'Comfortable' With Christopher Talks

JN1503111695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Mar 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Aymna al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—A senior official said Tuesday [14 March] Jordan was "comfortable with the atmosphere" of the talks which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christoper held with His Majesty King Husayn and other officials during his short visit to the Kingdom Monday.

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti stressed the importance of continuing talks between Jordan and the U.S., noting that King Husayn will visit Washington before the end of the month while U.S. Vice President Al Gore is expected here in few days. [passage omitted]

Mr. Christopher reasserted on Monday that Washington will honour its economic commitments to Jordan and will try to meet the Kingdom's security and military needs, adding that the U.S. recognises the improtant regional security role of the country.

But one political observer said that Mr. Christopher brought nothing new with him in Amman about practical steps to ensure that the Kingdom will get the debt write-off that the U.S. Administration promised for this year.

The observer said the question of debt relief is now in the hands of Congress and not in the hands of the administration. [passage omitted]

Two key U.S. senators were Monday expected to present the Senate with a bid that would have allowed the administration to meet its commitment to Jordan. But a source who asked not be named said filibustering in the Senate for domestic American reasons delayed the presentation of the bill, which, he said, is now expected to be taken up by the Senate on Saturday. [passage omitted]

Though Mr. Christopher said there was not much he can report now about steps to meet the Kingdom's security needs, King Husayn said he hoped he would get some definite answers about the subject when he meets President Bill Clinton in Washington later this month.

Sources close to the talks with Mr. Christopher expected the U.S. military support for Jordan to be substantial.

Mr. al-Kabariti stressed the importance of international support for the Kingdom in its efforts to build peace in the region.

"Jordan did not look to anybody when it made peace. But it looks to the international community and the United States when it starts building peace," Mr. al-Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES.

"Protecting peace is an international responsibility because peace is not just a Jordanian investment. it is an investment of the whole international community due to the importance of the area to the world."

Mr. al-Kabariti said that it was clear during Mr. Christopher's talks here, which covered bilateral ties as well as developments on other tracks of the negotiations, that the U.S. official had "guarded optimism" about the possibilities of making progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Mr. al-Kabariti said he hoped that these two tracks would see positive developments that will lead to "an Israeli withdrawal (from occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories) to the borders of pre-June 4, 1967."

He also expressed hopes that difficulties in the Palestinian and Israeli negotiations will be resolved.

Envoy on 'Great Hope' Debts Will Be Written Off

JN1503094495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Mar 95 pp 1, 28

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah has said the extensive contacts Jordan is holding with members of the Financial Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives herald good results. He hopes a decision will be made within the next two days on writing off Jordanian debts as scheduled this year.

In a telephone conversation with AL-DUSTUR in Washington, Dr. al-Tarawinah said there is great hope that Jordanian debts to the United States, which originally amounted to $500 million, will be fully written off.

Dr. al-Tarawinah explained that if the U.S. Senate makes this decision, then the financial committees of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate will hold a joint meeting to make this decision. He said there is great understanding of the Jordanian role and the importance of writing off Jordan's debts.

Dr. al-Tarawinah hoped the U.S. Senate decision will be the more forceful decision and that the debts will be fully written off by the end of this year.

Dr. al-Tarawinah said writing off $50 million instead of $275 million was not an action against Jordan. He explained that there is a reduction in the new programs introduced by the U.S. House of Representatives, which is devoting its attention to domestic affairs and to reducing the deficit in the U.S. budget.

Dr. al-Tarawinah reiterated the U.S. Administration's commitment to its promises to Jordan in terms of support in more than one field. This is especially true because Jordan is playing a direct and pivotal role in the peace process.

Dr. al-Tarawinah said peace is a Jordanian sovereign and strategic decision. He called on the international community to understand that stability in the infrastructure is connected to political economy. He added that the Jordanian economic situation should be improved in order to secure a lasting peace.

Minister Lauds Saudi Decision on Workers' Families

JN1403161195 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 14 Mar (PETRA)—Replying to a question posed by the Jordanian News Agency on a report carried by certain world media, including a Jordanian newspaper, citing the Saudi authorities' decision on the families of Jordanians [working in Saudi Arabia], Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the Saudi Government has, in fact, decided to permit wives and minor children to visit, or stay with, Jordanians working in fraternal Saudi Arabia.

This decision only applies to those working in important jobs, similar to other nationalities. The applications submitted in this regard will be dealt with according to the regular procedures followed by the Saudi Embassy, he noted.

Al-Kabariti added: We welcome and appreciate these measures and any other measures that will be taken in this regard. We view this Saudi step as a definite sign that the Saudi brethren are concerned about providing everything possible to facilitate things for our sons working in Saudi Arabia. The brother officials have always cared for these sons, he noted.

House Committee Condemns Israeli Practices in Lebanon

JN1403170195 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 14 Mar (PETRA)—Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, has stated that the Arab people in general, and the Lebanese people in particular, recall the passage of 17 years since the Israeli invasion of fraternal southern Lebanon. This invasion began to destroy Lebanon's infrastructure, loot its water, kill its sons, kidnap its strugglers, and siege its sea and airspace despite Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

Dr. al-Nusur added that the Foreign Affairs Committee condemns the Israeli practices in this afflicted part of Lebanon, which is still suffering from the repression of the Israeli occupier. The committee salutes the steadfast Lebanese people with their relentless, honorable, and heroic resistance, which is the prelude to liberating the sacred homeland from the tyrant occupier.

Al-Kabariti Meets Lebanese Envoy, Expresses Solidarity

JN1403182095 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has received the Lebanese ambassador to Jordan and delivered a message to his Lebanese counterpart Faris Buwayz.

The message comes on the occasion of international solidarity day with the south and the al-Biqa' Valley, which coincided today. The message included Jordan's support of Lebanon's call, founded on principles of international law, to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which guarantees the unity and integrity of Lebanon's lands.

In the message, Mr. al-Kabariti said the Lebanese Government activity is in line with moves to achieve lasting and comprehensive Middle East peace through peaceful negotiations. He added: The kingdom under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn always called for peace after bitter suffering of the region's peoples for decades.

Mr. al-Kabariti said the demands of the Lebanese [people] are legal, and their call for implementing UN Resolution 425 in all its aspects constitutes an important cornerstone for realizing a just and durable peace in the region. He said implementing the resolution would help progress in the current negotiations on all other peace tracks.

Buwayz on Christopher Visit, EU Position

NC1403190595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has described Lebanon as the toughest link in the peace process. He said the south will return to Lebanon, but must return honorably as part of the country's legitimate rights. In a statement this evening, Minister Buwayz described the position of the European Union [EU] as excellent, noting that it supported Lebanon's rights. Buwayz was commenting on the anniversary of 14 March; he made the statement to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY a short while ago, just after his arrival in Paris from Copenhagen. Minister Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] Undoubtedly, the occasion primarily reflects the failure of the Israeli acts of aggression that have been taking place for more than 10 years. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, in light of the contacts and meetings you held in Brussels, and I think in Paris too—and you will stay in the French capital for two days—is there any hope UN Security Council Resolution 425 will be implemented? Or in other words, are the countries that voted for the resolution still adhering to it and its implementation?

[Buwayz] I think the position of the EU, which is not new, is excellent. The EU has always supported Lebanon's rights and showed a clear position toward the Israeli aggressions in general and Resolution 425 in particular. What happened in Brussels yesterday was nothing but reaffirmation of the constant European policy. The problem, in fact, lies with the forces that control the Security Council and the international game. I think that as much as Europe plays a role in international decisionmaking, as much right and justice are upheld. Thanks to its history and practices in the Arab east, Europe has the experience in resolving issues and knowing the problems of the region.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, as is known, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is now in the region. How do you evaluate this new tour in light of the meetings and contacts you held in Brussels and at the Copenhagen summit?

[Buwayz] Of course, Mr. Christopher had to bring what is necessary to keep the peace process on the discussion table. I clearly think that the tour is a necessity, even if it has not yet made radical proposals to get the peace process moving. I do not have information indicating that the tour has indeed offered new radical proposals, but at any rate, I think that the attempt to resume the dialogue between the parties may constitute an acceptable objective of Christopher's tour if he succeeds in achieving it. [end recording]

U.S., UN Accused of 'Silence' on 'Aggression'

NC1503102095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0650 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Station commentary from the "Pause With An Event" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The day of 14th March is more than the anniversary of the Zionist devastation of Lebanese territory. It is a day that engraved in the hearts of the Lebanese people bitter memories of oppression, injustice, and banishment. Yet these memories revived the spirit of jihad, resistance, and liberation. Briefly, it is the day of treachery, massacres, and resistance.

We can say that it is the day of international [word indistinct]; the day that says the entire world is nothing but a false witness to the murder of the Lebanese, the destruction of their homes, and their displacement.

Oddly enough, the world that claims [word indistinct], looks with indifference at the blood flowing out of children and women's veins and tells news of the continuous acts of invasion and occupation, then listens carefully to other news, as if the issue is just a news item about Africa's jungle or the unexplored regions of the Amazon. Has history seen more arrogance?

What is the meaning of the continuing presence of the United Nations and its various specialized agencies? Why was the organization established in the first place? Was it not founded to guarantee world peace and security? Can we not say that the United Nations, which followed its older sister the World League, was founded to prevent wars everywhere?

Regrettably, these principles are only respected when the issue concerns the big states that claim to be glorious and great. What kind of a United Nations is it that hears about massacres, the killing of Lebanese children, the slicing of pregnant women's abdomens, and the Israeli occupation troops' strangulation of Lebanese farmers with nylon string and fails to take the trouble to investigate or condemn, even orally? What kind of a United Nations is it that refuses to equate Zionism and racism? Barbarism and Zionism should be treated as one and the same thing, just like the resistance, pride, and dignity.

With total audacity, Israeli Deputy (Yuri Aveniri) admits that an officer in the Zionist army, heading an infantry platoon during the devastation of Lebanon, arrested four Lebanese farmers, tortured them for hours, and then gave the order to strangle them with nylon string. He then gave the order to throw the farmers' bodies in a deep well. Although this was admitted by a Zionist deputy, the United Nations and the new world order do not accept it. They say that Zionism is a civilized, not a racist movement, call for establishing peace between the snake and the hens, and mediate between the criminal and the victim, putting pressure on the victim to give up its dignity, forget its pains, and give its fur to the murderer so that he can be warm.

The enemy has been committing massacres for 17 years, using bullets, guns, and fire. On 14 March the state of murderers sent in 30,000 of its troops, supported with hundreds of tanks, guns, aircraft, and gunships. Some 360 cities and villages were subjected to aggression over seven days. One percent of Lebanese territory was occupied, 600 citizens were martyred, and more were wounded. Hundreds were arrested and put in prison dungeons. The destruction inflicted on schools, mosques, medical centers, residential areas, and water and communications lines was massive. Crops sustained as much damage as Hiroshima, the first victim of world arrogance.

The aggression has continued for 17 years. So has the damned world silence. In that time there have been UN resolutions that never saw the light. The American veto was always ready. It was the moral weapon the arrogant and the tyrants gave themselves to defend their injustice against those taking revenge. Resolution 425 was issued five days after the aggression. In the prime of its life, it is still withheld in its mother's womb. The unjust do not want him to come to life, not because it will change equations, but because it admits that aggression occurred and names the aggressor. How can something like this happen when America wants to pamper its foster child!

The international resolution was not implemented and the withdrawal of the aggressive forces did not take place. The resolution stipulating the formation of temporary international forces to supervise the withdrawal of the occupation forces, restore peace and security, and help the government retrieve its actual authority over the region put its right foot down on the road of Jabal 'Amil, but it could not put the other foot there too. The remaining international forces are dumb witnesses; they see the crime but cannot explain it, so they give the impression that they do not make mistakes.

The date 14 March is not a day for the futile bemoaning of the ruins of Jabal 'Amil and western al-Biqa'. It is not a day for mourning the martyrs, oppressed, and detainees. It is not a day or occasion for political speeches that are blown away by the wind. It is a day for carrying the banner of solidarity; a day for taking away the olive branch from our hands and lifting weapons, because the enemy does not acknowledge or know the language of diplomacy, dialogue, and rectangular or round tables. What has been taken by force can only be retrieved by force. The date 14 March is not an occasion for the negligent person to ponder briefly and then return to his earthly duties and feelings. It is a day that should be a signpost on the crossroads, a signpost that points in two directions. One of the directions is that of humiliation and submission, and the other is the direction of dignity and resistance. All those marking the occasion must clearly declare which road they want to take. Placing one foot toward the right and the other the left is a policy rejected by the Lebanese. Nor does vagueness benefit them. Why has the state not declared its honest stance on the Lahd Agents? Are there some members among the rulers who believe that resistance is harmful rather than beneficial. These members should be kicked out of logic, the State, history, and geography because without the resistance and its mujahidin, the occupation would still have been in Beirut, Sidon, Tyre, al-Nabatiyah, and Jabal Lubnan. The occupation would still have been stealing the riches of the country, igniting sedition, and feeding tribalism. Where is the policy of steadfastness that should be the focus of daily interest and activity? Official incompetence regarding this scope cannot be justified by any justification. It is incomprehensible to the masses of the mujahidin and the convoys of victory-makers. Lebanon cannot be content while its south is sad. How can a body progress toward health when its heart is hit by a Zionist cancer? This is a statement that goes against the laws of science, history, politics, and literature.

On the day of the south, the day of Lebanon's solidarity with itself, the slogan of "All of us for the nation [first line of the Lebanese national anthem], all of us for the Resistance" should rise above all other slogans. Comprehensive national interests should be developed to confront the occupation. We should immediately start work to construct the war society to destroy the continuous aggression and thwart its objectives to divide us. Otherwise, the calls that are launched every now and then, which call on our people in the occupied regions to cling to their homes and land, will only be screams in a valley heard by no one, that is, if they are not accompanied by offering the means for this steadfastness.

Revival of the memory of the invasion must be translated into a clear policy and must entrust the government with practical duties. The media display is good and required; required more is a plan for steadfastness, liberation, and support for the resistance, because resistance is the only thing that can weld the Lebanese together into a cohesive society that is anointed by blood.

Cabinet Calls For Peace, Affirms 'Resistance' Right

NC1403155095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1340 GMT 14 Mar 95

[Statement by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri following a cabinet meeting in al-Nabatiyah—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet appreciated the high sense of patriotism that prevailed among all popular, political, and spiritual circles on the day of Lebanon's solidarity with itself by commemorating the 14 March anniversary. In this regard, the Cabinet stressed its absolute adherence to implementing Resolution 425 as the suitable and acceptable tool for Lebanon to achieve security and peace in the region. The cabinet saluted the steadfastness of the people of the south and of Western al-Biqa' in the face of the occupation and the aggression. The cabinet adopted the recommendations outlined in the speech of his excellency the president before the

Chamber of Deputies this morning as well as the recommendations of the honorable Chamber of Deputies.

The cabinet looked into the conditions and sufferings of our people on the frontline and occupied areas at the hands of the Israeli enemy. In this respect, the cabinet decided to revive the activity of all the official institutions and adopted a series of administrative, economic, social, health, and education measures to upgrade the steadfastness and prevent normalization by making available all the basic needs of the inhabitants of these areas, in terms of services, advances, and compensations. The cabinet decided to broaden the membership of the Higher Relief Agency to include the heads of the economic bodies and private institutions and to task this agency with financing the industrial, agricultural, and professional projects and to back and encourage the private institutions and bodies in the occupied and frontline areas.

The cabinet discussed the conditions of the families of martyrs and prisoners. It pledged to continue to strive, by all means and in conjunction with all international agencies, to secure the release of these prisoners, put an end to the suffering of their relatives, and continue to back the steadfastness of the martyrs' families.

The cabinet emphasized the Lebanese people's right to resist the occupation and termed Israel's call to disarm the resistance as a precedent unheard of in the history of nations and one that Lebanon will never accept under any condition.

The Lebanese Government, meeting in al-Nabatiyah, affirms its desire for a just and comprehensive peace, emphasizes that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks are parallel, and rejects the separate and partial solutions that cause further conflicts and disputes. The Lebanese Government, backed by a national consensus, considers 14 March a day of emphasizing Lebanon's adherence to the implementation of the international resolutions, specifically Resolution 425. The Lebanese state, through its own Armed Forces, is capable of assuming its full responsibilities in safeguarding security in the south and in Western al-Biqa' once Resolution 425 is implemented. Thank you.

Fadlallah Calls For Arab, Islamic Support

NC1503093195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has called on the Lebanese people to offer support to the Islamic Resistance. At a Koranic seminar last night he was asked how solidarity with the south and the Resistance could be shown. His eminence said: We must change our words into deeds. We should not just throw words into the air. Sayyid Fadlallah said:

[Begin Fadlallah recording] All the Lebanese people and all the Arab and Islamic nations should stand behind the Resistance politically so that they turn its political position, stance, and aspirations [words indistinct] the Resistance politically, and help it to confront the enemy. The people should become one voice to support the political stance of the resistance as an introduction to supporting its jihad stance from the political perspective.

The Lebanese, Arab, and Islamic peoples must shoulder their responsibility of providing material support for the resistance so that it can acquire the means to buy developed weapons and support all its men with their families and martyrs, as well as for other reasons. The Lebanese, Arab, and Islamic nations must support the resistance by offering it more of the things that turn it into a resistance of a people and nation, not the resistance of a particular group or sect. I believe the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon has opened its arms to embrace any element from any sect, party, country, or group to confront the Zionist enemy. The Resistance was launched, not to stay in the limited circle from which it emerged, but to unite the Arab and Islamic nations, to regain their strength and position, and to move toward confronting the enemy with great freedom. It is not enough for us to applaud the Resistance and then deal it a blow. We should not talk about the reality of the Resistance through slogans and the media only. We must realize that we need stances of action, not stances of peace, which are blown away by the wind. Actions entrench positions and stances. [words indistinct] that part of our words that are blown away uselessly.

What is useful to people are effective stances and actions. What is useful to people will enable them to stand fast on the land. While we appreciate the united voice that was produced by the Lebanese to confront the occupation remembered on 14 March and while we appreciate the unified Lebanese atmosphere and voice, we do not want this day to become lost. We want it to be a day on which the Lebanese people, with all their sects, parties, stances, and regions, stand behind the resistance to support, protect, and strengthen it, fight to keep its word heard above all others, and destroy the word of the enemy and its Agents. [end recording]

Christopher Delegation Continues Visit to Damascus

Al-Asad, Christopher Resume Talks

JN1403211695 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the al-Rawdah Palace at 1115 today. [passage omitted]

The talks dealt with the peace process. The two sides resumed discussions of the ideas Christopher conveyed to the president yesterday, Monday, in light of what Christopher brought today in terms of clarifications and stands. Christopher informed the president that the United States will continue to exert efforts to give momentum to the peace process.

It has been agreed to resume the talks in Washington on the level of the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors, with the participation of, and under the sponsorship of, the United States, and to discuss the subsequent steps in light of the results reached by these talks.

Christopher: Syria-Israel Talks To Resume

JN1403213695 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2110 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has announced that the talks between Syria and Israel will resume at the ambassadorial level, in Washington, under the auspices and participation of the United States.

In a news conference he held in Damascus tonight for the U.S. journalists accompanying him, Christopher said that in light of the talks that will be held between the two ambassadors, U.S. Coordinator for the Middle East Dennis Ross will be sent [to the region] to help advance the peace process.

Christopher emphasized that his current Middle East tour was a success and that the tour made progress on all tracks.

Answering a question on the date the talks between Syria and Israel will be resumed, Christopher said that the talks will be resumed soon.

On the results of his tour in the region, Secretary Christopher said: I discussed with all sides the subjects that concern the peace process on the other tracks, including the situation on the Palestinian track, reviving the negotiations between Israel and the self-rule authority, the international sanctions imposed on Iraq, and the nuclear subject between Egypt and Israel.

Delegation Departs

JN1503094795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0918 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning at the end of his visit to Syria during which he was received by President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, and the U.S. Embassy staff.

Al-Asad Briefs Lebanon's al-Hirawi on Christopher Talks

JN1403214095 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2127 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, we have just received the following: A telephone conversation was held this evening between President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. During the conversation, talks dealt with the peace process. The president briefed President al-Hirawi on the talks he held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Results of Christopher Talks Examined

JN1503162295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian-Israeli talks will resume at the ambassadorial level in Washington very soon. This was announced by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the end of his tour, after which, he left Damascus for the United States this morning.

Political analysts said that all the indicators of Christopher's shuttle tours between Syria and Israel show that the U.S. secretary held very difficult talks in the Syrian capital, which has not directly accepted the Israeli proposals.

1. When the chief of the U.S. diplomacy first came to Damascus, he discussed for five hours with President al-Asad the ideas that he brought with him from Israel.

2. The U.S. secretary returned to Tel Aviv from Damascus with clear, concrete ideas that required very little discussion in Israel.

3. As with his other shuttle tours, Christopher's return to the Syrian capital was not announced prior to the U.S. secretary's tours.

4. Christopher's discussions with President al-Asad, which lasted more than two hours, show that Syria was not satisfied with the Israeli responses.

5. In the wake of his talks with President al-Asad, Secretary Christopher did not make the expected announcement that the Syrian- Israeli talks had resumed. Journalists had gathered at the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus for the announcement. He only made many contacts with the U.S. Administration and Israel to discuss the amendments demanded by President al-Asad.

6. Christopher met with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' at the Syrian Foreign Ministry, where he gave him the replies to the Syrian demands or amendments.

7. Christopher told U.S. reporters at the hotel, after canceling a news conference, that the Syrian-Israeli talks will resume at the ambassadorial level in the presence of the United States, because Syria's insisted on the full participation of the U.S. sponsor.

8. It is incorrect to say that Syria has agreed to the security arrangements proposed by Israel. What affirms this is Christopher's announcement that U.S. Peace Coordinator Dennis Ross will return to the region shortly in an attempt to renew the talks between the chiefs of staff of both countries to discuss the security arrangements.

9. Christopher postponed his departure from Damascus under the pretext that the airplane crew was very tired. This morning, he held short talks with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar', which could have dealt with the results of last night contacts—which were not confirmed by any source. Christopher and al-Shar' emerged from the meeting, together with U.S. Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim, continuing an unfinished discussion.

Papers Discuss 'Land for Peace' Proposals

JN1503082295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Mar 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "Land for Peace," TISHRIN discusses the principled Syrian position on the Middle East peace process.

The paper says: Clearly, this Syrian position expresses the Arabs' desire to achieve peace and embodies their yearning for an era of stability and security in the region. Syria adheres to the principles and foundations of the just and comprehensive peace because it wants to safeguard Arab national rights, preserve Arab dignity, and protect their lands, presence, and future.

Consequently, Syria was fortified with all factors and elements of right. It was also able to expose all the intransigent positions, so far from just and comprehensive peace, that Israel was hiding behind in order to promote its plans. The aim of these plans is to keep the Arab territory, maintain Israel's occupation, impose its will, and drive the Arabs into accepting the fait accompli policy and into relinquishing their territory.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Since the start of the peace process, Syria has stressed that peace is its strategic option on the basis of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula, and within the framework of justice, right, comprehensiveness, balance, and equity. This kind of peace must give each his own rights. It must ensure that the Golan Heights are returned to their Syrian owners in full and that southern Lebanon is returned to its Lebanese owners as the basis for the arrival at the promised, genuine peace. Syria can never deal with the developments of the peace process and the efforts exerted in that regard except on that basis.

Under the headline "International Legitimacy's Peace," AL-THAWRAH stresses that complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and all the occupied Arab territories has been, and remains, the key to the kind of peace which Syria seeks; the peace of the brave which guarantees, after the return of Arab rights and territory, the rights and interests of everyone.

AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has responded favorably to the requirements of peace on the basis of complete peace in return for complete withdrawal. Syria believes that mechanisms must serve the desired objective and not obstruct it. It also viewed the issue of security in a comprehensive perspective which everyone must have. It insisted on parallel security arrangements and equality in everything to ensure that peace does not turn into surrender and that a solution does not mean an entrenchment of occupation or an extension of Israeli hegemony.

AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has confirmed its adherence to peace. It also confirmed its adherence to the will of international legitimacy and full readiness to implement its resolutions to achieve a peace acceptable to everyone and which responds to the aspirations of the region's people. Syria, however, rejected and continues to reject partial solutions and refuses to relinquish the national and pan- Arab rights and bargain over the land.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: One cannot speak of any progress unless Israel accepts complete withdrawal. When it does that, it will be submitting to the spirit of the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the international legitimacy. It will not be giving Syria land or rights that it owns.

Afghanistan

Fighting Between Government, Taleban Continues

LD1503112495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest report from Kabul, heavy clashes continue between the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the Taleban group on the outskirts of Afghanistan's capital.

According to the report, government forces have targeted the regions of Reshkhur and Khairabad from the Scud site and surroundings of Darluaman. They have captured regions such as Palang-e yak and Palang-e Do. Advances toward the region of Reshkhur, and the deployment place of Taleban forces continue.

A number of reports indicate that since this morning, the Taleban group, once on the Paghman road, began their attacks on Kabul from a region called Kampani.

The latest reports testify that government forces are in control of Kabul, and the Taleban are trying to enter the city.

According to another report, talks continue between the representatives of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] on one hand, and government representatives on the other, to establish order and security in the western parts of Kabul.

Rabbani Forces Claim Success in Attacks

BK1503095195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 15 Mar 95

[All place names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, March 15 (AFP)—Forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani claimed they had notched up gains Wednesday [15 March] as they launched new attacks on the Taleban student militia to the south and west of Kabul.

The Taleban, who were expelled from the city's southwestern districts at the weekend, suffered losses in fierce fighting 12 kilometers (eight miles) south of the capital, according to sources at Rabbani's defence ministry.

The pro-Rabbani forces mounted the attack at a gorge midway between Kabul and the students' stronghold of Charasyab, 25 kilometers (15 miles) south of Kabul, they said.

The Taleban lost two hilltops in the fighting, and presidential forces captured a tank and a vehicle-mounted anti-aircraft cannon, they said.

An unknown number of Taleban were taken prisoner, and the fighting was continuing in mid-afternoon, they said.

The report, which could not be confirmed independently, appeared to mark the latest reversal for the Taleban, a recently-forged student movement that aims to quell the chronic internecine fighting that has gripped Afghanistan over the past three years, and install an Islamic government.

In a separate development, Afghan sources reported fresh fighting between Taleban and pro-Rabbani troops to the west of Kabul.

The Taleban launched an infantry attack late Tuesday supported by tanks from the town of Maidan Shar, southwest of Kabul, on the neighbouring town of Arghandeh which they seized.

Defence Ministry sources said the president's forces launched a counter-attack Wednesday, recapturing Arghandeh.

The Taleban swept to prominence last year, and swiftly conquered a third of the country before taking up positions at the gates of Kabul.

But their attempt to enter the city last week, taking up positions vacated by the anti-Rabbani Shi'ite militia Hezb-e Wahdat, was humiliatingly crushed a few days later.

Security To Concentrate on Western Area

LD1403185395 Mashhad Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dari 1430 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Yunos Qanuni, the head of political affairs at the Afghan Defense Ministry, today announced that the government will concentrate all its efforts on establishing security in western and southwestern Kabul. A correspondent for the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic in Kabul reported that Gen. Qanuni, who was speaking at a gathering of journalists this afternoon, said that police and security forces will be sent west of Kabul under the supervision of the city's security commission to restore security to the people of that area. Qanuni said that the security and police [word indistinct] have already arrested 50 armed people who were creating disturbances in the name of the government and its allies.

This high-ranking official of the Afghan Government promised that in the next few days complete security will be established for the residents of southern Kabul. Regarding the Taleban group and the government's position, Qanuni said: With their attack on Kabul, the Taleban has proved that they are supported by foreign hands, and the Government of Afghanistan will take military steps to eliminate their threat.

The latest news from Kabul indicates that in the southern and southwestern suburbs of Kabul, government forces and forces of the Taleban group exchanged artillery fire and rockets. There are no reports available yet about the results of today's clashes in southern and southwestern parts of Kabul.

Official Denounces Taleban's 'Foreign Links'

LD1403200795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In its session this morning, the high council of the attorney general declared that the Taleban group that has recently emerged in Afghanistan has foreign links. A source from the attorney general's office told a correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that [words indistinct].

In line with the principles of the holy Islam, an uprising against an Islamic state is rebellion, and this group does not deserve to use the sacred name of taleb [religious student]. All (?students of theological seminaries) are being asked to refrain from cooperating with this group, thus being rewarded in this world and in the next [words indistinct].

Wahdat-e Eslami Spokesman Condemns Mazari Murder

LD1403202895 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Spokesman of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan, Abuzar Pirzadeh, said here today that the martyrdom of secretary-general of the party, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari would not go unanswered.

Issuing a statement, the spokesman said the martyrdom of Mazari while in captivity of the Taleban group was a conspiracy aimed at destroying the national unity of Afghanistan.

Hoj. Mazari who was taken prisoner by the Talebans was killed along with some other Wahdat officials on Monday [13 March] near Kabul.

Mazari was a leading mojahed with years of service against the Soviet occupation of his country and was a memorizer of the Holy Koran.

Wahdat said the martyrdom of Hoj. Mazari would lead to nothing except ignominy for the Talebans, whom he described as colonialist agents.

Iranian Envoy Speaks on Humanitarian Assistance

LD1503114295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with our correspondent in Kabul today, Gholam Reza Haddadi, the Iranian charge d'affairs to Kabul, expressed his concern over the continued clashes in Afghanistan and emphasized the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the innocent people of Afghanistan. In an interview in which he discussed sending humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, he said:

[Begin Haddadi recording] The Embassy of Iran in Kabul has since yesterday begun to provide assistance to the people. This process is continuing today and will continue in the next few days.

We have undertaken proper measures to provide assistance, such as treating the injured, supplying medicine, clothes, blankets, and food. We do not consider ourselves separate from the innocent Muslim people of Afghanistan. We see it as our duty to give unlimited assistance in such a critical and difficult situation. [end recording]

India

Assembly Elections in Bihar Rescheduled

BK1503020195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Election Commission has ordered the rescheduling of the polling dates for the second and third phase of assembly elections in Bihar. Polling in the state will now be held on the 15th, 21st, and the 25th of this month instead of the 15th and 19th as scheduled earlier. In an order issued last night, the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, said the fresh schedule has been drawn up after a detailed review of the situation and to prevent a repetition of the electoral malpractices which vitiated the polling during the first phase held last Saturday [11 March].

The order said that the commission expects all practicable and necessary steps will be taken to ensure effective deployment of central forces to protect the process of the election from being vitiated. Mr. Seshan said the commission had not received a satisfactory response from the Bihar government to the set of instructions issued to the state government on Sunday regarding deployment of central forces and removal of some of the officials who are alleged to have behaved in a partisan manner during the first phase of polling. It will ensure that at least half a section of the central and armed forces of other states will be available as static forces at each and every sensitive polling station. The remaining booths will be covered at least by one mobile unit of the central forces every hour in between six in the morning till the close of polling. Under the revised program the second phase of polling earlier scheduled for Wednesday [15 March] will now be spread over two days. Purnea, Santhal Pargana, and Bhagalpur Divisions will go to the polls as scheduled for tomorrow. Constituencies in Monghyr and Patna Divisions will be covered on the 21st instead of the 15th. The third phase earlier scheduled for the 19th will now be held on the 25th covering Tirhut, Saran, Darbhanga, and Saharsa Divisions.

Counting of votes will be spread over two days on the 26th and 27th. The election process will be completed on the 29th of this month as envisaged at present. Meanwhile, campaigning for the second phase of assembly elections ended yesterday.

First BJP Chief in Gujarat Sworn In

BK1503024595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Gujarat, Mr. Keshubhai Patel, has been sworn in as chief minister at a function in Gandhinagar. This is the first BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government in the state. The governor, Dr. Saroop Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Patel. The 65-year old BJP leader belongs to Rajkot and has been a member of the state assembly since 1975. Our Ahmadabad correspondent, Manoj Agaja, reports that the names of the council of ministers are expected to be announced after the Holi [religious] festival. The BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, and the chief ministers of Delhi and Rajasthan were also present at the ceremony.

Congress-I Ministry Assumes Office in Orissa

BK1503095395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Orissa, a five-member Congress-I ministry headed by Mr. J.B. Patnaik has been sworn in. Mr. Hemananda Biswal and Mr. Basant Kumar Biswal have been sworn in as the two deputy chief ministers. The other two cabinet ministers are Mr. K.C. Lenka and Mr. Rama Chandra Ulaka. The governor, Mr. B. Satyanarayan Reddy, administered the oath of office to the new ministers in Bhubaneshwar today. Mr. J.B. Patnaik becomes the chief minister of the state for the third time.

Article Views Likelihood of Kashmir Elections

BK1303105795 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 11 Mar 95 p 6

[Article by Jawaharlal Kaul: "How Many Votes Would Be Cast in the Kashmir Elections?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister has said that elections will be held in Kashmir soon. It is difficult to believe such announcements, which have come quite frequently from Delhi, Srinagar, and Jammu. According to information from Jammu, however, there have been certain activities that make people believe that elections will really be held this time. Appointing a new election commissioner as well as cleaning the rusty ballot boxes, giving them a fresh coat of green paint, and placing marks on them are activities that indicate the possibility of elections in the coming two or three months.

Some important aspects of this issue need to be considered. What has occurred during the last few months to make the government consent to holding elections in Kashmir? Even if elections are held, will there be sufficient votes cast to claim the consummation of the democratic process in the state? Notwithstanding the government's claims, the fact is that it has no control over terrorist activities in Kashmir. On the contrary, during the last six or seven months the terrorists have seriously intensified their activities outside the valley, in the Jammu region. The terrible conditions in Doda are akin to those in the valley, with rampant rape, kidnapping, arson, and murder and the consequent exodus of the distressed population. Now the terrorists have even taken Jammu town in their gory clutches. The way the attempt was made to bomb the area in which the governor was addressing the people on the occasion of Republic Day speaks volumes about any governmental claim that the Kashmir administration and the police have brought the terrorist menace under control or may succeed in doing so in the coming few months.

The sudden abatement in terrorist activities in the valley cannot be a reason to hold elections, although during the last year their mode and manner has undergone a bit of a transformation. With the increase in the number of terrorist groups in the valley, terrorism has acquired some sense of professionalism. This competitive sort of terrorism has begun to victimize common people. The Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front has lost control of the movement. Aside from professional terrorism, the other reason for this change is the realization by Pakistan that the Front was developing into an advocate for the third party, apart from India and Pakistan. Pakistan's intention has never been to liberate the Kashmiris; hence it was necessary to render the Front ineffective. So it formed a strategy to encourage the Hizbul Mojahedin, inspired by the Jamaat-i-Islami. This did not reduce the number of terrorist groups because they have now tasted the economic advantage of terrorism. In less than three or four years, every Kashmiri has been victimized by one terrorist group or another. The extortion of money for the "public cause" (the chanda) and for religious and social activities, the extortion of money at bayonet point for various developmental programs, and the coercive interference by terrorists in the transfer and posting of their "stooges" have become everyday events. Outwardly, people are joining processions and staging strikes out of fear of the terrorists, but inwardly they are sick of these forced activities. This situation has led to a reduction in the number of candidates for training in subversive activities and violence. Amid such an atmosphere, only one way is left to continue the reign of terror—throw foreign terrorists into the fray and use the best weapons and other arms to hit well-selected targets.

While Pakistan began to gain a psychological advantage from this situation, advisers to the Indian Government had the opportunity to claim that the terrorists were no longer receiving public support and most of their disruptive activities were the handiwork of hired foreign terrorists. Perhaps it is to prove this claim that the Indian Government wants to hold elections in Kashmir. If elections could be held, India could then claim in international fora that the Kashmiris want neither a merger with Pakistan nor independence. How long such an elected government could survive is not the question before the Indian Government, because it would have an opportunity to diffuse the international pressure it is facing.

It is true that the common people in Kashmir do not have as much respect for the mojahedin as they did earlier, nor as much exuberance for their mission. They do not have even an iota of respect for the administration, though. Hence their accursed silent existence between the audacity of the terrorist groups and the callous maladministration of the ruling authorities. Under the circumstances, even if the Kashmiri people want to join the political process the government is willing to start they would have no enthusiasm to do so. How, then, does the government propose to hold elections and complete the democratic process in Kashmir?

To comprehend the root cause of this malady, it is necessary to understand the ethnic and communal formation of society in Jammu and Kashmir. As the name indicates, the state was formed by combining two separate regions—Jammu and Kashmir. For various historical reasons Jammu has an abundance of Hindus while Kashmir has a majority of Muslims. Geographically, Jammu extends up to Indian Punjab while the Kashmir Valley spreads up to the so-called "Azad Kashmir" and Pakistani Punjab. This is the main reason for the majority of one community in each of these regions. The third region in the state is Laddakh, formed by two subregions—the Bhutiya Laddakh and the Balfi-Kargil areas. One of the regions has a dominant Buddhist population and the other is Muslim. If we look at this divided region from the Hindu-Muslim angle, the total population of Kashmir is more than two-thirds Muslim, so even if we accede to the plea of the secessionists and Pakistan the Muslims would boycott the elections. This is not the case, however. Ground conditions in the predominantly Muslim Doda region of Jammu and the Poonch region are not favorable to the secessonists. Aside from the 48 percent Hindu population in Doda, the majority of Muslims in the region will not boycott the elections. The boycott drive would have little effect in Poonch District. In other worlds, despite intensifying their activities, the terrorists cannot force people to boycott the elections, even in districts that are predominantly Muslim.

In this connection, even if we take the regional tilt as the basis, some people may argue that because the terrorists have a hold in the valley people there might not dare to go against them. This is all the more so because the terrorists still have the capacity to punish people who flout their orders. Those who dare defy their orders have no faith in the local administration's capacity to protect them, nor do they expect a better future from it. So in Kashmir the boycott of the elections would be total while in Jammu it would have a negligible effect. Under this scenario, even if elections are held, only 25 percent turnout would be possible. Compared to the elections held in Punjab, even 25 percent is not bad. In Punjab only 15 percent of votes were cast and a democratically elected government was still formed. This exercise would conclusively ascertain, though, that only the Kashmir Valley in Jammu and Kashmir is not ready for the democratic process. The advantage of this would not only be derived by the terrorist groups; on the instigation of Pakistan they would claim in international fora that the Kashmiri-speaking populace is not prepared to live with India. Another likely consequence of this election would be the negligible influence of the government on the Kashmir Valley; hence it would only survive for a very short period. In other words, the crux of the problem would remain as rigid as ever and perhaps be aggravated further. This is still not a correct appraisal of the situation, however. During the last five years of the terrorists' reign, most major towns and cities in the valley have been under their influence. Their grip had grown quite strong in densely populated areas, whereas in rural regions the people have grown increasingly disillusioned with them. The people's anger has been caused mainly by the torture inflicted by the reckless terrorists, but to some extent also by the aversion rural people have developed for the entire movement. They have lost faith in the utility of this terrorist movement. One of the reasons is the fact that the hilly region of the Kashmir Valley has always been beyond the reach of the terrorists. Laddakh is a Buddhist area in which the supremacy of Kashmiri speaking people has always been anathema. Their agitation against Kashmiri-speaking people has been going on much longer than the terrorist movement. This is why the Pakistani sponsored terrorism has no effect in the Laddakh region. The other district of Laddakh, Kargil, despite having a majority Muslim population, never allowed the terrorists to get a foothold in the region. The apparent effect of the secessionism has been mainly due to the ongoing political and economic struggle between the Buddhists and the Baltists, which the terrorists have failed to exploit to their advantage. In this context the Gujars or Bakarwals dwelling in the hilly regions of Kashmir are also important. Despite being Muslim, their basic character is tribal. Because of their continuous inhabitation of the region, their social setup and economic ambitions are different from the other inhabitants of the valley. Traditionally they have had trade relations with people outside of Kashmir. Hence the Gujars do not generally support the terrorist movement.

It is true that a terrorist group called Al Baraq is mainly a Gujar gang, but interestingly the formation of this terrorist gang was not inspired by religious fanaticism against India. This group was formed chiefly to protect the inhabitants from the onslaught of foreign terrorist groups coming through this route from Pakistan. Dwelling in the highlands with mountain peace and land for grazing cattle, they were victimized by the infiltrating terrorist groups. These tyrant groups extorted money from the Gujars, molested their women, and stole their sheep and goats. It was to check this menace that the Gujar formed their Al Barq group. Obviously these Gujars were not inspired by the terrorists. Rather, they had grown sick of the terrorists' torture. In the same way there are many small "islands" or "unaffected areas" in which the terrorist movements have no influence, not only in the Kashmir Valley but in the Jammu region as well. They remain aloof from the terrorists' hold because of their peripheral dwelling places.

What is most interesting in this context is the fact that the areas the Pakistan-trained terrorists primarily use to infiltrate are the least affected by terrorism. For example, take the Kupwada area in the valley, which has been in the news since the day the terrorists and security personnel began confronting each other. This is the most convenient and smallest pass along the Line of Actual Control. In fact, this small region is at the beginning of a series of small passes. For the terrorists it has always been convenient to infiltrate into our country from the Krishaganga Valley near the so-called "Azad Kashmir" and enter the Kupwada region. In the initial phase of the terrorism, most terrorists infiltrated via this route. Hence the maximum deployment of our security troops there. No doubt the frequent skirmishes between the terrorists and the security troops disturbed the people of the region very much, but the role of our troops here has been quite commendable. The people dwelling on the border never felt the need to flee because of the services rendered and chivalry shown by our troops. The Army contributed liberally in building hospitals and other public buildings in the region. The role of the troops transformed the very face of this economically deprived region. Those sitting far away might call this claim incredible, but rural Kupwada is more secure and peaceful than the capital of Srinagar. A similar "island" can be found between Bandipur and Gures in the border region. Bandipur is situated on the bank of Wullar Lake. The route to Gures, on the border, passes through this town. On the other bank of the Wullar Lake is Sopor town. Initially this was also a hotbed of terrorist infiltration, but after the "Wullar Operation" by our armed forces, the terrorists were browbeaten. Because of the lessening of the terrorist hold in Sopor, the Bandipur-Gures area has become very peaceful. Hence it would be not wrong to assume that the boycott of the elections in Kashmir would mainly affect the four districts in the center of the valley. Maybe the advisers to the Indian Government believe that if elections are held for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in the coming two to three months, the total voter turnout would be double or more that of the Punjab elections.

58 'Terrorists' Killed in 6 Months

BK1203104295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All evidences point toward Pakistan's involvement in the upsurge of terrorist activities in the Doda region of Jammu and Kashmir. Security forces have seized arms and ammunition and seditious literature with Pakistani trademarks from the terrorists in the region. A report:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] When the pressure of the Army on the Line of Actual Control combined with effective operations by security forces in the Kashmir Valley began to be felt by terrorist groups, they started moving to the Doda region which until then was peaceful. Here, the Inter-Service Intelligence of Pakistan decided, was the ideal ground not only for rest and recuperation but for further fomenting terrorism and eventually paving a corridor to the idyllic environs of the Chmaba Valley of Himachal. In the past barely six months since the Delta Force [as heard] of the fledgling Rashtriya Rifles moved to Doda, 58 terrorists, including foreign mercenaries, have been killed, 85 captured along with large quantities of arms, ammunition, explosives, walkie-talkie radio sets, packets of foodstuffs, medicines, and clothing mostly of Pakistani make or with Pakistani markings.

[Unidentified Army officer] It was on 4 March, the 173 column which was led by late Captain Rakesh Sharma; he was hit on his left shoulder. Disregard to his injury, he kept crawling forward along with his boys. He threw a [word indistinct] and in that he could manage to kill an Afghan militant, and having done this he sprang and entered into the volley along with his two comrades. It was at that time he got into a fight with another militant who was later identified as a Pakistani. A Pakistani militant had fired from his [word indistinct]. A bullet hit his left neck. Before he what you call died, he ensured this militant is also killed (?simultaneously). [end recording]

Iran

U.S. Efforts, Syrian-Israeli Talks Criticized

NC1503074395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of his one-week tour of the Middle East, which was aimed at breaking the deadlock in the compromise talks, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher stated that talks between representatives of Syria and of the Zionist regime will soon resume in Washington.

Political analysts believe that as long as the Zionist regime continues its expansionist policies and as long as the aggressive regime retains its positions unchanged, talks between representatives of Damascus and Tel Aviv will lead to no perceptible change in the current situation.

Yesterday's comments by Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to parliament, stating that Israel's stance on Syria will not change, show that the Zionist regime is not ready to put aside its aggressive policies. In return, Syria too is not willing to surrender to this policy of the Zionist regime. Syrian officials recently stated that they will not surrender to the Zionist regime's blackmail and that as long as the Golan Heights in its entirety is not returned, no country can force Syria to accept the compromise.

The major obstacle to the compromise between Syria and the Zionist regime is the level of the upcoming talks between them; it shows that the outcome of Christopher's efforts was to return the talks to the situation they were in a few months ago. Christopher stated yesterday that Dennis Ross, U.S. special coordinator for Middle East affairs, will return to the region in the coming weeks to remove the obstacles to the possible resumption of talks between the chiefs of joint staff of the Zionist and Syrian General Staffs. Three years ago, when the compromise talks started in Madrid and continued in Washington, the Damascus-Tel Aviv talks were on the foreign ministerial level. But when these talks proved futile, the level of the talks was dropped. In the first phase the talks were demoted from the foreign ministers to the joint chiefs of staff of both sides, and in the second phase the talks were further demoted and were held between the Syrian and Zionist ambassadors in Washington.

Summing up, you can say that the talks between the chiefs of joint staff of the Syrian and Zionist armies is a return to a low level of talks between Damascus and Tel Aviv and should not be considered a fundamental development in the current compromise process in the region.

Regime Said Planning To Attack Opposition Bases

TA1403194895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, which is opposed to the ruling regime in Iran, has announced that the Iranian Supreme National Security Council is preparing a plan to launch attacks on the bases of the Iranian Resistance inside Iraqi territory. The announcement added that in recent days the Iranian Government has amassed large numbers of Revolution Guards and artillery forces in the Qasr-e Shirin area near the Iraqi borders.

Iraqi-Turkish Objectives in Northern Iraq Examined

NC1003132995 Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Mar 95 p 8

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "Baghdad Is Not Worried About Turkish Army Movements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent deployment of the Turkish Army's special units in northern Iraq, talk of Iraqi Army attacks on Kurdish positions in that area, and efforts by government forces to occupy some of the antistate Kurdish groups' positions in the east of Kirkuk Province are issues that call for comment.

The truth is that while the recent military movements by Baghdad and Ankara in northern Iraq cannot be considered to be a fully organized joint movement planned by Turkish and Iraqi statesmen, these steps can be considered ways to consolidate the current political overtures by the leaders of the two countries. They also show their wish to restore the profitable situation of old—in which both sides had less severe headaches—and do away with the uncertain situation that now prevails.

Over four years after the oil war and the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the officials in Baghdad and Ankara are treading a common path and strongly feel the mutual need to open up a new chapter in their bilateral relations.

The emphasis placed by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Turkish Foreign Minister Murat Karayalcin on the need to lift the trade sanctions on Iraq during the recent visit by Iraqi Foreign Minister al-Sahhaf to Ankara, and the announcement by the Ciller administration that limited trade relations between Turkey and Iraq can be increased and that the government too will extend the necessary facilities in this relationship, show that Ankara is obviously not interested in retaining things as they are and in suffering further losses from it.

Officials in Baghdad have fully understood this need by Ankara and are trying to activate trade with the Ciller administration in a bid to free themselves of the current chaos.

This is the general atmosphere that rules the two countries' relations and something both sides are trying to promote more each day; in essence both countries have also taken specific and considerable steps toward this end.

Despite the current unrest in northern Iraq, Turkey is apparently willing to deploy the choice part of its army in this region in a bid to achieve several important goals.

First, the conflicts in northern Iraq have so far shown the marked superiority of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and Talabani over the rival group, that is, the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] and Barzani, who is more inclined toward Ankara. Ankara fears the Talabani faction gaining power near its border, as there is a strong link between this and the major problem the Ciller administration is facing; that is, Kurdish unrest. Talabani has repeatedly criticized the Ciller administration's policy on the Kurdish rebels in Turkey and believes that Turkey has been more lenient toward Barzani and his group in northern Iraq. Second, by taking its forces closer to the Turkish border, the Talabani faction is trying to remove the control that its rival group, the KDP, has over the strategic Habur customs on the Turkish-Iraqi border and to reap the political and economic benefits of this on its own. Naturally, with differences between Talabani and the Turkish Government, this will create problems for Turkish merchants and the Ciller administration. Third, Turkish officials hope that by deploying their forces in northern Iraq, they will strengthen Barzani's faction and stop the influx of Kurdish refugees, who are moving toward the Turkish border as tension heightens in the region.

Baghdad officials are trying to make Ankara's statesmen realize a few points.

First, they want Turkey to realize that Ankara's best choice in the long run is to establish direct links with Baghdad, not with the Kurds, and that if the control of the two countries' borders and of the Habur customs is in the hands of Iraqi central government, Turkish merchants can work to improve bilateral trade with greater peace of mind, which is exactly what Ankara wants. Second, with the expansion of central government rule in northern Iraq, the grounds for removing the hotbed facing both Baghdad and Ankara will be paved.

Under the circumstances it seems that having taken the aforementioned steps, the Turkish Government is not so very dissatisfied with the idea of extending Iraqi central government's control and supervision in northern Iraq; and even if this means the bases of the Kurdish rebels who oppose the Ciller administration are dismantled, Ankara will not be too unwilling to help Iraq in this.

Finally, it seems that Iraq and Turkey continuing this policy will place a problem in front of the self-declared rule of the Iraqi Kurds, which will no longer be of any use to Ankara. This is why Iraq is not worried about Turkish Army movements in the region.

Ahmad Khomeyni's Condition Deteriorates

NC1503070995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0500 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Arefi, who heads the medical team treating Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, was interviewed by our correspondent this morning and discussed his patient's general condition.

[Begin 'Arefi recording] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Our dear brother Haj Ahmad Aqa Khomeyni's general condition began to deteriorate at 2300 [1930 GMT] last night and his blood pressure became difficult to control. His heartbeat, which had been fluctuating between regular and irregular, became completely irregular. At 0300 his blood pressure dropped and did not increase with medication, By administering serum, blood, and various new medicines, however, his blood pressure improved slightly, but again it started to fluctuate from acutely irregular to somewhat regular.

At 0100 we faced a major crisis, which involved the efforts of the entire medical team. Afterward his condition gradually improved a little, but his blood pressure remains low and he is not responding well to the medicine. His heart, which was the only relatively active organ, is facing a problem. The other organs too, such as the brain, are almost completely inactive.

We need more prayers than before. Please do not forget us in your prayers. Your prayers can help us and, God willing, his recovery. Thank you. [end recording]

Habibi, Belarus's Chyhir Hold Second Round Talks

LD1403174195 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March, 14, IRNA—The second round of talks between visiting Belarus Prime Minister, Mikhail Chyhir and Iran's First Vice President Hasan Habibi were held here Tuesday [14 March].

Prior to the start of the talks Iranian and Belarus ministers, governors of the Central Banks of the two countries and mayors of Tehran and Minsk presented a brief report on the results of bilateral talks in the economic, political and cultural spheres, and described them as positive.

Ministers of commerce of Iran and Belarus reported on the understanding reached regarding opening of trade offices of the two countries in each other's capitals, participation in international exhibitions in the respective countries, setting up of a permanent exhibition of Iranian goods in Minsk, exchange of cotton and paper and providing facilities for Iranian businessmen and industrialists in Belarus.

The Central Bank governors of the two countries reached agreements on providing bank facilities and opening special accounts for the benefit of exporters and importers.

The mayors of Tehran and Minsk and the ministers of industries of Iran and Belarus also reported the results of their talks on expansion of cultural, sports and industrial ties.

Vice President Habibi, expressing satisfaction with the trend of talks, voiced Iran's readiness for any kind of cooperation and expansion of ties in the political, economic, cultural spheres as well as areas of common interest.

Referring to the agreement reached on waiving of visas for diplomatic passports, Habibi underlined the necessity to link the two countries' land, air and sea networks, and said the possibility of transit and exchange of goods between Iran and Belarus should be expanded.

He also stressed on implementation of agreements signed and the need for further talks at the expert level.

The Belarus premier was greatly impressed with Iran's achievements and expressed hope that his visit would pave the path for expansion and strengthening of mutual cooperation.

Chyhir said his government will do its best to implement the agreements inked by the two sides.

Memorandums of understanding in the areas of banking, trade and political ties were signed during the visit. The mayors of Tehran and Minsk also signed a memorandum of understanding.

Japan Not Submitting to U.S. Pressure To Halt Loan

LD1103210495 Tehran IRNA in English 2044 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—A senior Foreign Ministry official underlined that the recent visit of Japan's special envoy to Iran aimed at exploring grounds for granting of a dlrs. [dollars] 450 million loan by Tokyo to Tehran to build the Karoon-4 Dam.

Talking exclusively to the English daily IRAN, the managing director of Iran's Foreign Ministry for Far East and Oceania affairs, Hassan Taherian, said that Japan had repeatedly stressed that it would not submit to the U.S. pressures not to grant the second loan to Iran.

Claiming that Iran was supporting terrorism and opposed the peace trend in the Middle East, Washington recently indulged in many activities in Japan to make it cancel payment of the loan to Iran.

Saying that the Japanese envoy was here to negotiate expansion of ties with Iranian officials, Taherian noted that the visit was vital for granting of the loan by Japan.

Asserting that Japan had made it clear that it considered any exertion of pressure on Iran as a threat to peace and security in the region, the official remarked that constructive talks with Iran always stood at the top of Japan's foreign policy.

Also commenting on the same issue, the first secretary and political attache of Japanese ambassador in Iran underscored that as an independent country Japan would never give in to American pressure to deny Iran the loan.

He believed that Tokyo's cooperation with Tehran in constructing the Karoon-4 dam was indicative of the friendship between the two countries.

He concluded that thanks to the broad political and economic relations between the two countries, Iran and Japan would surely settle the affair.

Documents Attest to Sovereignty Over Islands

95LA0123D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 7 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] 7 Azar [28 November]—Historical documents proving Iranian sovereignty over the islands of Tonb-e Kucheck, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Abu Musa were published in London by an expert on Iranian affairs.

According to KEYHAN-E HAVA'I's reporter, professor Keith McLacklen [name as transliterated] has published a book on the Iranian borders. The longest chapter of the book is on the subject of sovereignty of Iran over Tonb and Abu Musa islands.

Professor Keith McLacklen, whose book has been published under the title of "Borders of Modern Iran," is an expert on Iranian affairs and the head of the center for geopolitical studies at the University of London. The chapter on Tonb and Abu Musa islands was prepared by Dr. Piruz Mojtahedzadeh, the Iranian expert on borders and Persian Gulf affairs at that university.

The publication of documents and the history of the sovereignty of Iran over the three islands by one of the most important scientific centers in the world represents a reaffirmation of the rightful stance of the Islamic Republic for protecting the territorial integrity of Iran against recent claims incited by America and Britain over these islands.

Arab League's General Secretary Supports UAE

UAE [United Arab Emirates] news agency reports from London that following a meeting with Douglas Hurd, British secretary for foreign affairs, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the secretary general of the Arab League, repeated the League's support for the UAE in its claim over the three Iranian islands.

At the end of his meeting, he said: "We have announced our support for the UAE and condemned Iran." Also, he expressed the Arab League's full support for the UAE's position of referring the case to the international court of justice.

This reassertion of support by the secretary general of the Arab League for the false claims of the UAE following his meeting with the British secretary for foreign affairs is an indication of London's role in inciting Arabs and causing trouble in the region.

Mazari Death Said To Mark 'New Phase' of Afghan War

LD1403142095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1104 GMT 14 Mar 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The news of the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, leader of one of the resistance groups of Afghanistan, at the hands of the newly-emerged Taleban group, has caused many concerns in Afghanistan's internal circles as well as in foreign political circles.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] has announced a week of national mourning, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the action.

The martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mazari is considered a heavy blow to the suffering community of Afghanistan. He struggled alongside other mojahedin for the freedom of Afghanistan, and was a tireless and persistent participant in the jihad during the long period of communist rule in Afghanistan. He could have played an important role in the postwar reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Political analysts believe Mr. Mazari's martyrdom has opened a new phase in Afghanistan's civil war.

During the three years of bloody fighting among the rival groups in Afghanistan, the killing or assassination of high-ranking leaders of political and military parties was very rare. The killing of Mr. Mazari has brought about the danger that the assassination of leaders might turn into a new tactic in Afghanistan's fighting.

Because this incident occurred in the new and unknown Taleban group, some people say that the incident is due to the Taleban group's lack of information about the political norms existing in Afghanistan. But events are progressing in such a way that this theory is untenable.

This group, which came onto the scene with the slogan of "Peace for Afghanistan" and was able with this popular slogan to attract the support of a section of Afghanistan's people, has now resorted to such actions, which not only does not solve any of Afghanistan's problems, but has practically added to the existing difficulties by opening a new front in Afghanistan's civil war.

Political experts believe that the group's unexpected defeat by government forces, despite the widespread propaganda about its power, persuaded it to resort to a new tactic, that is the assassination of leaders. Experts believe that the policy now being pursued by this group justifies Mr. [Borhanoddin] Rabbani's decision to refuse to hand over power.

The Taleban group's policy of eliminating all jihadi groups from power—and the martyrdom of Mr. Mazari could be seen in this light—does not conform with existing realities in Afghanistan. Therefore, it is vital that this group, which calls itself the liberator of Afghanistan, should change its policy.

IRNA Provides Provincial Economic Statistics

LD1103214895 Tehran IRNA in English 2053 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—The following is a series of economic news received from throughout the country: Esfahan: rls. [rials] 9.9 billion in loans offered to farmers in Najafabad between March 21, 1994, and February 19, 1995.

Qazvin (Tehran Province): 195 industrial and production units were put into operation this year with a capital standing at rls. 125 billion. 7,300 job vacancies also were provided as a result.

Kalardasht (Mazandaran Province): Rls. 200 billion in credits was allocated to procurement of infrastructural facilities for fish culturing in the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995-2000).

Kalardasht (Mazandaran Province): 30,000 square meters of carpets, worth rls. 5.4 billion, were woven west of this northern province this year by 2,700 weavers, 75 percent of which for exports to the Persian Gulf littoral Arab states, Germany and Switzerland.

Bojnurd (Khorasan Province): Over 20,000 tons of cotton were harvested from 7,000 hectares of cotton growing lands this year, showing 30 percent of rise than last year's output.

Bushehr: 125,000 hectares of the provincial lands were mapped this year.

Esfahan: 199,955 hectares of farmlands were put under wheat and oats cultivation. Five and four tons of wheat and oats were harvested per hectare on the average from provincial farmlands this year respectively.

Kermanshah: 312,000 out of over 2,51 2,000 heads of livestocks were vaccinated against diseases in over six million turns this year.

Gonbad (Mazandaran Province): Documents for ownership of 20,000 hectares of farmlands in this northern provincial city were issued for animal growers.

Rasht (Gilan Province): The first decorative floral exhibition was inaugurated here on Saturday.

Rasht (Gilan Province): Ownership documents for 20,000 hectares of farmlands in the provincial cities of Roudbar, Roudsar, Rezvanshahr and Lahijan, were issued for 501 farmers.

Sari (Mazandaran Province): Operations lanuched on Friday [10 March] to supply provincial cities of Qa'emshahr, Babol, Babolsar and Jouybar with natural gas, at a cost of rls. 12.43 billion.

Shoushtar (Khuzestan Province): Local farmers harvested over 30,000 tons of maize from a total of 7,125 hectares of maize growing lands this year, showing a rise of 1.3 tons per hectare on the average compared to the preceding year's output. Last year's output stood at over 21,000 tons from a total of 4,800 hectares.

Semnan: 30 research projects are under implementation in this eastern province this year by Construction Jihad Ministry, of which 15 are to be in the field of natural resources, eight in animal husbandry, five in watershed management and two in veterinary medicine.

Kerman: 120,000 hectares of the provincial farmlands fall under watershed management plan.

Nowshahr (Mazandaran Province): Rls. 500 billion allocated to procurement of fisheries facilities in the Second Five-Year Plan.

Yazd: Operations are under way to lay natural gas pipelines in an area of 338 km routing from Esfahan to this southern province, with a credit of rls. 542 million.

Tehran: 1,111 licenses for export of over rls. 101.903 billion worth goods, including agricultural products and foodstuff, fibres, animal products, textiles, industrial products and pharmaceuticals, were issued between january 21 and february 19.

Sanqar (Kermanshah Province): Rls. 1.848 billion was spent for implementation of 25 development projects in provincial cities of Sanqar and Koliaee this year.

Qazvin (Tehran Province): Over 241,000 tons of fruits and nuts, including apples, pomegranates, peaches, pears, cherries, plums, walnuts, almonds, pistachios and hazelnuts, were produced this year.

Mashhad (Khorasan Province): Dlrs. 420 million earmarked for procurement of pharmaceuticals and powdered milk next this year.

Lahijan (Gilan Province): 1,500,000 beetles are to be scattered in the local tea growing lands to fight against special kinds of pests.

Petroleum Minister on Past, Future of Oil Industry

LD1103140395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday, at a ceremony marking the opening of Qa'em-Shahr gas distribution project, the petroleum minister [Gholam Reza Aqazadeh] announced that with the production of around 7 million tonnes of petrochemical products, in the current year, more that 1 million tonnes of these products have been exported. He added that in view of the plans already in hand, the production of petrochemical substance will increase to 9 million tonnes next year and the value of its export will increase to $360 million.

The development and expansion of petrochemical industries is considered one of the chief achievement of the first development plan. [passage omitted]

Iran with its huge gas and oil resources, enjoys significant advantage in production of petrochemical products. If it had resorted in good time to creat necessary installations for the production of these products, it would have become one of the main production centers in the world. However, the delay that occurred in this important task, in the period prior to the victory of the Islamic Revolution and which intensified with the imposition of the war on Iran, enabled a number of the oil-rich countries to preempt Iran and invade the world markets.

Nevertheless, after the revolution and specially in the course of the first development plan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran paid special attention to petrochemical industries. An outstanding example of that is the opening of the huge petrochemical complex in Imam Khomeyni port with an annual production of 3 million tonnes. It is considered to be the largest industrial complex in the country. When the second phase of this complex became operational in Mordad [23 July to 22 August 1994], our country, from the view point of production of petrochemical products, was moved up suddenly from the 24th rank to the 2d among the Middle Eastern countries. When its third phase opens in 1375 [beginning 21 March 1996], Iran will become one of the limited countries in world which produces Olefine and ethylene.

The construction of this complex, which began in 1353 [began 21 March 1974] with the participation of Japan and by that country's experts, was a target of enemy air raids many times during the imposed war to such an extend that its reconstruction and completion by foreign experts was declared to be an impossible task. However, as a result of round the clock efforts of more than 3,000 Iranian engineers and technicians, its various units were gradually rebuilt and became operational. Today this complex is considered one of the country's important bastions for creating employment, launching new industries, and continuing growth and development.

Need To Revise Oil Pricing Methods Seen

NC1103083995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 11 Mar 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Incoming reports indicate that following the two-week dollar slump in the world markets and its drop to its lowest post-war rate, the state minister for financial and industrial affairs of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has called for a repricing of raw materials and especially of oil and for the protection of prices against acute changes in foreign exchange rates.

Before this the Islamic Republic of Iran had repeatedly pointed out in OPEC and in oil circles the need to change the pricing method for oil sales because fluctuations in the dollar rate during the past decade have led to more drops in the prices of raw materials and especially in oil. Meanwhile, by increasing the prices of finished products, the Western industrial countries have kept inflation in their countries lower at the cost of the developing countries.

Now the actual price of each barrel of crude oil in the world markets by calculating the slump in the dollar rate in the past decade is less than the price of oil after the 1973 oil shock when oil prices suddenly increased. The same applies to many other cases of raw materials and agricultural products, which are solely manufactured by the Third World.

At the end of World War II, and at a time when the economies of many countries had suffered substantial losses, the United States devoted about half of the total world production to itself and by leaning on this economic strength that it was able to present its national currency as the most important foreign exchange in international transactions and to make the dollar the basis of price calculations in the world. However, now America's share is only one-fifth of the total world production of oil and 14 percent of total world exports, while 60 percent of foreign exchange deposits and 50 percent of the personal accounts in the world are in dollars. Two-thirds of international trade continues to be based on the dollar. All this occurred at a time in the past decade when America was the world's largest creditor to the world's largest debtor because of the continuing deficit in its foreign trade balance.

At any rate, the UAE's proposal, which is a repeat of an old proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran, can draw the attention of other world countries, especially of oil-exporting countries, to the need to seriously review the prices of their products so that they will not further delay their countries progress because of their links with America's crisis-stricken economy.

Two New Oil Rigs Planned in Caspian Sea

LD1103232195 Tehran IRNA in English 2313 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., March 11, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said here Friday [10 March] that two drilling derricks to exploit oil will be set up in the Caspian Sea waters next Iranian year (beginning March 20).

The oil minister who arrived here Friday to inaugurate a gas project, added that one of the derricks is under construction and the other will be rented.

If apropriate conditions are provided, a refinary will be established in the northern province of Mazandaran, he said, adding that exploration operations in the Caspian Sea will also be staged in the second five-year development plan (1995-1999).

The minister announced that some 200 cities are enjoying gas project.

New Oilfield Found in Khuzestan Province

LD1503092495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 15 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Oil has been struck at in the Shurbin oilfield, between Genaveh and Gachsaran [Khuzestan Province] after six months of drilling. Thus, Iran now has a new oilfield.

In an interview with our correspondent announcing this, the exploration director of the National Iranian Oil Company said that this oilfield can produce 10,000 barrels of oil per day, leading to total production of 80 to 130 million barrels of crude.

Besharati Says 3 Million Refugees in Residence

LD1403152295 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Minister of the Interior, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said here on Tuesday [14 March] that more than three million refugees from 60 countries are living in Iran.

Speaking in a press conference, he said that 2.5 million refugees are Afghan nationals. He added that the Afghan refugees possessing permanent refugee cards are entitled to stay in Iran, but those whose temporary cards expired and those who have entered Iran illegally should leave the country.

On the natural catastrophes which caused losses in the current calendar year (to end March 20, 1995), the interior minister said that natural disasters caused rls. [rials] 50 billion in damage and that rls. 350 billion was spent on implementation of urban development plans and carrying out 150 projects to take precatious measures in face of natural disasters.

Besharati said that more than two thousand billion rials was spent on the infrastructural projects of the cities throughout the country in the current calendar year.

500,000 Afghans To Be Repatriated

LD1303205695 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1915 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Five hundred thousand Afghan nationals, currently living in Iran, will voluntarily go back to their country in the next Iranian year beginning March 21st.

Saying this in an interview today, Iran's Interior Ministry's Director General for Alien Affairs, Mr. Hoseyni, announced that 400,000 Afghans who hold temporary card for residence in Iran are also bound to either return to their country or be settled in determined camps.

He further added that in the new Iranian year Iran will accept refugees only in exceptional cases.

Mr. Hoseyni announced the number of refugees now in Iran at more than 2.27 million. He noted that more than 1.1 million refugees have returned to their homeland this year, adding that about 500,000 of the refugees have been provided with aid from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Pakistan

Paper Claims U.S. Mission Reducing Karachi Staff

BK1503095795 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Mar 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—As the security environment in the city continues to slide, the United States

Government is believed to have decided to cut the number of its officials posted at the US consulate general, according to the sources familiar with the decision taken by the US State Department in Washington D.C. recently.

Under this recent decision, sources said, the entire office of the Library of Congress will be shifted from the US Consulate General in Karachi to the embassy in Islamabad. Many other officials, mostly posted on technical positions, will also move to Islamabad.

Well informed sources said that the recent decision, though, would reduce the number of US officials in Karachi, but the overall strength of the US government officials in Pakistan would remain the same. Beside the embassy in Islamabad the US State Department runs Consulates in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar.

On March 8, two US government officials were killed and another was wounded in an ambush on U.S. Consulate General's van on Main Shahrae Faisal in Karachi. The United States and Pakistani investigators still have no clue about the terrorists though investigators widely believed that the ambush was the result of a well laid out operation.

Some security officials here fear that the March 8 attack may not be an isolated attempt to terrorise Americans as there were reports of a concerted terrorist campaign not only to terrorise Americans but a few more foreign diplomatic missions in Karachi.

Concern about the security of US nationals in Karachi multiplied on Saturday last in the wake of a rocket attack on the residence of Pir Pagara in KDA Scheme-1. Senior police officials and some US diplomats suspect that the rocket attack that jolted the entire KDA-1 neighbourhood was actually attempt by unidentified criminals to terrorise the vast Americans community that live in the same neighbourhood.

"Our theory is that the rocket was actually aimed at the neighbourhood surrounding the American School and it hit the Pir Saheb's residence by an accident," said a senior police official who had visited the spot a few minutes after the attack. Though not a shred of evidence was available some officials floated the theory that the rocket was supposed to hit a passenger bus.

A high ranking police source informed Tuesday that the US officials in Karachi have requested extra measures for the American School when it opens next week. The school is currently observing annual spring holidays one reasons that only three US officials, instead of nine, were riding the van on that unfortunate day. [sentence as published]

While the police is making its efforts to provide security to the US officials in Karachi, the State Department is understood to have taken some extra-ordinary measures to extend a fool proof security cover to its nationals in Pakistan. It has been reported that the US government is shipping armoured personnel carriers for the security of US diplomatic mission in Karachi. The large team of US officials that arrived here on Friday to investigate March 8 slaying of two US officials also included a large number of security experts that had been sent to exclusively look after the personal security of the US nationals in Karachi.

Mainly because of untrustworthy security cover in the city, top Sindh police officials also preferred that all bilateral meetings the US and Pakistani investigators to monitor the pace of probe are held at the US Consulate General building in the city. One such meeting, also attended by the IGP [Inspector General of Police] Sindh Afzal Ali Shigri, was held at the US consulate on Tuesday morning.

Soon after the assassination of two US officials here last week the US State Department had asked all US nationals intending to visit Karachi to put off their travel plan or if they still decide to visit Karachi they must exercise extreme caution.

Senior bankers and some businessmen in Karachi said that they were personally familiar with the specific cases where the prospective US investors in Pakistan postponed their plans to visit Karachi. Visible signs were available at the Karachi stock market, maintaining a constant downward, that foreign investors were pulling their money back.

Cabinet Says 'Drug Mafia' Involved in 'Terrorism'

BK1303133795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Cabinet decided to take stern action against terrorists in Karachi. The Cabinet met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and observed that ever since the government started action against the drug barons, the drug mafia started terrorist activities in parts of Karachi. The drug barons were funding the terrorists and were instrumental in fomenting in parts of the city. The Cabinet decided that all such elements responsible for encouraging terrorism will be dealt with severely. The government will not compromise with terrorists and will deal with them with an iron hand. Nobody would be allowed to play with the live and property of the people and the administration will be tightened. The Cabinet was informed that the prime minister is closely monitoring the Karachi situation and has directed the provincial government to deal with the situation effectively.

At a press briefing by the federal information minister, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Kharal, a number of important decisions were announced. The minister told the journalists that the Cabinet has decided to approach the opposition for making amendment in the Constitution to protect the green areas of the city which would go a long way in saving Islamabad from pollution. To protect the environment and to save the Karachi port from marine pollution, the Cabinet decided that ships responsible for pollution and creating environmental hazards will be fined from $50,000 to $one million. The minister said that the Cabinet also approved the redevelopment of Sector G-6, Islamabad, and [word indistinct] on Jahangir Road area, Karachi, in order to construct multistorey flats to increase housing.

Causes, Effects of Karachi Violence Viewed

BK1503092695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Mar 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Karachi: cause and effect"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] American officials and the media have made a plausible case of inaction by successive governments in Pakistan for doing precious little to curb violence in Karachi. A lot can be said favour of such a line of thought as the situation in the country's biggest city appears to be perpetually deteriorating with little or nothing being done to stop the slide. The killing of the two US consulate staffers rightly attracted American criticism and concern. The Pakistani press, too, has highlighted the cavalier manner in which the federal and Sindh governments are dealing with turbulence in Karachi. Somehow, the authorities' efforts appear stultified by their inability to see the wood for the trees. The reality on the ground is misunderstood mostly, with the result that the remedial actions hardly suit the situation.

However, where the American officials and the media err is when they view the situation only to the current perspective rather than study it across a wide canvas that also encompasses the past. The happenings in the city cannot be considered in isolation from the rest of the country as whatever is taking place there probably has its roots elsewhere. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has blamed the west for its role in creating the present conditions in Pakistan. The Afghan war brought the western nations in droves to Pakistan to assist in the "holy war" against the Soviet Union. But when the war ended, the west withdrew, leaving Pakistan to reap a rich harvest of problems.

The rest of the sequence is already known. Weapons, drugs, militant sectarianism and all manner of terrorists was the savage crop yielded by the Afghan conflict. The policies of Ziaul-Haq which opened the floodgates of all intolerance and hatred set the pattern that Pakistan was to take in the future. Karachi, in this respect, is the worst-affected because it offers the most chance of indulging in criminal activity. The supine governments which ruled Sindh were incapable of doing little more than indulging the various forces that wielded power in the city. The collapse of law and order was not unexpected as divisiveness, which has always existed in Pakistan, had acquired a dangerous militant face.

The failure of the present and the past governments is best reflected in their inability to decide on the main source of the threat and take firm action. There is too much of posturing and too little of resolution even at a time when the decline towards chaos is rapid. Although no one can possibly blame the present government for what it has inherited, but a time will come when it alone will have to pay the price.

Karachi Police 'Crackdown' Questioned

BK1503071095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Mar 95 p 10

[Report under the "News Intelligence Unit" rubric by Kamran Khan: "Police Befool the Nation as Karachi Thrives as a City of Drugs and Guns"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI—Never before in the our history has a police department, acting on a two-hour notice, arrested 268 assorted criminals. The not so famous, police department in Karachi got into the record books in a brief eight hour period on Saturday [11 March] night.

The top police bosses of Sindh received a pat on the back from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto before she left for Islamabad after a 36-hour sojourn to Karachi on Sunday morning. Two hours later the business capital and the largest city of the nation was still bristling as a sprawling market of drugs and guns.

An elaborate investigation by this correspondent into the much trumpeted police crackdown against notorious criminals, however, disclosed that except for two persons none of the 268 people thrown into 90 Karachi police stations on Saturday night had any significant record of involvement any known case of terrorism, murder or robbery that has jolted this city in the past one year.

The investigation, during which at least 16 Station House Officers (SHOs) were interviewed for background, it was revealed that in fact on Saturday night the city police created a dubious distinction by booking hundreds of people of false and concocted charges. "Have an independent team of Human Rights activists visit the Kharadar, Mithadar, Preedy, Artillery Maidan, Saddar, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Gulberg, Ferozabad, Bahadarabad, Gulshan-e-Lqbai, Gulzare Hijri, Matir, Model Colony or any other police station in Karachi, they will only find innocent people or petty criminals languishing in those lock-ups like animals, "said a mid-level police official who toured five Karachi police stations along with this correspondent on Sunday afternoon.

During the course of investigations for this story, plenty of evidence was available to suggest that the city police bosses in their knee jerk reaction to the prime Minister's directives on Saturday for a ruthless operation against criminals in Karachi picked up petty criminals and innocent people from the streets of the city and later projected their so-called crackdown as a major action against organised crime.

One Sunday evening the city police bosses, besides other weapons, proudly presented for public consumption, two sub-machine guns [SMG] that they claimed to have recovered from the terrorists. These weapons were snatched from police constables in the District West of Karachi about two weeks ago.

This correspondent discovered that in the recovery of the two SMGs, which were made several days ago, but were being displayed as if they were recovered on Saturday nights, the police had no role whatsoever. An informed source revealed that the snatched sub- machine guns were actually delivered at the doorstep of an intelligence agency after the leader of the breakaway group of an ethnic organisation was told that his activists had snatched two weapons from police constables in Pak Colony.

The leader of that militant ethnic group first refused to accept that his boys had snatched the two SMGs, however, when he was pressed by the head of the intelligence service in the city, he not only recovered those weapons from his activists but had them "delivered" to the office of the secret service. There were no arrest.

Working against the deadline of 5 a.m. on Sunday morning, police stations all over the city followed a pattern under which a dozens of innocent people were picked up under section 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code that allows the arrest of people who are considered a "threat to the peace". Why all of those people arrested under section 151 became a threat to peace on Saturday night? asked a senior police official who was clearly disturbed over the wave of arrests by the police on Saturday night.

Several SHOs, giving the inside story behind the recovery of 119 unlicensed weapons, revealed that almost all of the weapons exhibited before the press on Saturday actually belonged to the criminals who were arrested, in the past several months, in various police stations of the city but they were set free for one reason or the other as one police source put it. "Every officer at a police station has a police kit bag. This kit bag is normally filled with a few unlicensed weapons, a small quantity of drugs and other assorted items. Most of the officers empties their bags on Saturday night," one police official said.

According to the police except three or four people at least 115 people were falsely booked under section 13-D of the Criminal Procedure Code (Possession of unlicensed weapons). It would be several months before these people would be able to obtain bail for themselves.

Police insiders said that even a casual look at the 268 arrested people would show that many of those so-called notorious criminals were actually drug addicts picked up from the city streets. Sources said that these people have been depicted as major drug pushes and were further projected as the agents of drug barons, who according to the prime minister were behind the conspiracy to destablise Karachi.

Independent queries showed that among all persons arrested on Saturday, only Faheem Commando, an activist of a breakaway group of an ethnic organisation had a significant criminal history. A well informed police source, however, disclosed that Faheem was arrested several days ago, but his arrest was made official on Saturday.

Investigations by this correspondent disclosed that contrary to the police claim of a major crackdown against criminals in Karachi on Saturday night, some of the big drug dens in the city did thriving business on the same night.

Residents and police sources said that in Shah Faisal Colony, where the suspected killers of American officials lived, the massive drug den of Misal Khan and Biladar Khan, was undisturbed by the police crusade against the criminals and did flourishing business. Residents estimate that about 2000 drug addicts buy their daily doses of hashish and heroin from this den.

In Nazimabad Kazim Khan ran his huge gambling and drug den as usual, the police parties working against a deadline of seven hours to catch criminals in the city picked up a few junkies from outside the den, but it did not bother to enter Karachi's oldest and the most organised drug den.

Only a two-minute drive from the port, near Kemari, police in its campaign against drug runners, conveniently ignored the flourishing drug dens of Mir Whis and Shamshad Khan at Char Nal Road. Several thousands of Karachi's drug addicts visit this den every day, according to the residents. Also in Kemari Saifur Rehman aka [also known as] Saifura runs one of the largest gambling and drug dens in the city.

In the outskirts of the city also the police restricted its so-called crusade against the criminals to those individuals who hardly matter in Karachi's underworld. At Al-Asif Square in the jurisdiction of Gulzare Hijri Police station, city officials are well aware that Haji Hasen, not only operates a big drug den but is also a major supplier of drugs to various selling points in the city. Police sources confirmed information gathered by this correspondent that recently a notorious drug runner Hanif had moved his den from Quaidabad to Al-Asif Square.

The police, in its campaign, also ignored the region's largest market of drugs in Lyari-the PPP's stronghold in Karachi. In this PPP constituency the Afshani Gali in Kalakot caters to thousands of drug addicts every day. "Three full scale drug dens are operating in Afshani Gali alone," confirmed a Kalakot resident. During a visit to Lyari on Sunday evening, this correspondent witnessed a bustling drug bazaar in and around Afshani Gali.

During the same tour of this drug infested area, this correspondent saw dozens of young boys offering packets of hashish and heroin around Aath Chowk in

Chakiwarah. Similar activity was witnessed at Bedshah and Wali Khans' dens behind the Lyarl Truck Stand.

The drug den of Ghafoor in Malir city worked as normal on Saturday and Sunday night, while it was business as usual at Noor Jehan's drug den near Korangi NO.1. In the nearby Quaidabad, Said Badshah's sprawling drug den, close Gul Ahmed Mills in Mujaahid Colony, escaped the "vigilant" eye of the police.

Although Rangers had raided a drug den in Shirin Jinnah Colony near Clifton, but Torray Khan and Sirzamin Khan, the two major drug den operators in the area, reopened their dens Friday night and did flourishing business on Saturday when thousands of police were out to eliminate criminals from this metropolis.

Although police claimed the recovery of 119 weapons during its campaign on Saturday night the events in Pak Colony and some other areas of Karachi, where according to a senior security official scores of automatic and semi-automatic weapons were used in factional fighting on Sunday, exposed the police claim about the weapons' recovery.

"Had there been a genuine campaign the criminals would not have dared to expose their fire-power only a couple of hours after a huge city-wide campaign to recover illegal weapons, "observed a Pak Colony shopkeeper, who had to abandon his shop after indiscriminate gunshots rang out on Sunday morning.

Bhutto, Iranian President Rafsanjani Meet

LD1403191795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Islamabad this afternoon, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto described as important Iran's role in the erection of an oil refinery in Pakistan, the transport of Iranian gas to Pakistan, cooperation on the transport of Qatar's gas to Pakistan through Iran, and the expansion of Pakistan's roads. She declared Pakistan's readiness for further cooperation toward the expansion of technical and industrial relations between the two countries.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the deepening of ties with neighboring Muslim countries was one of Iran's priorities in the establishment of relations with other countries.

Referring to Iran's actions to start the implementation work on the Kerman-Zahedan railway, he declared Iran's readiness to execute the agreements reached with Pakistan and rebuild that country's Quetta railway.

Joint Economic Projects Outlined

LD1403215195 Tehran IRNA in English 2117 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, March 15, IRNA—Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here Tuesday [15 March] told Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani that Iranian help for building an oil refinery near Karachi as well as a project for taking Iranian gas to Pakistan, and its cooperation for conduiting gas from Qatar to Pakistan had been especially valuable to her country. She said her administration is willing to broaden relations with Islamic Iran in technical and industrial areas.

Mrs. Bhutto also appreciated the strong presence in Pakistan of Iranian road-building contractors, and also Iran's help for reconstructing railroads in her country. She said Pakistan was also willing to have a share in building a sugar cane factory and another cement plant.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani appreciated the feelings of the prime minister of the neighbouring Muslim country of Pakistan saying that the good cooperation between the two countries had its roots in the cultural identity of the two nations. He said developing close relations with Pakistan was a priority in the foreign policy of Iran. Rafsanjani said a railroad linking the Iranian city of Kerman with Zahedan in Sistan-Baluchestan province of Iran was under way, and added that Iranian contractors were ready to participate in rebulding the Quetta railroad in Pakistan which is connected to Zahedan. He said that once Pakistan is ready to fulfill previous agreements between the two countries it would be linked with the Central Asian states.

Iran is fast laying the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway tracks which when complete will link the Iranian railway network to the Central Asian one. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Road and Transportation Minister Akbar Torkan and a number of other Iranian officials were present in the meeting between the Mrs. Bhutto and Hoj. Rafsanjani.

The Iranian president is in Islamabad for the summit of the 10- member Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which opened earlier today.

First Batch of 180 Troops Leaves for Haiti

BK1503062395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] First batch of Pakistani troops left for Haiti today to participate in the UN peacekeeping operations in that country. A contingent of 180 troops left Karachi for Haiti by a chartered plane.

Sri Lanka

Hunger Strike by LTTE Captives Reported

BK1003144595 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0851 GMT 10 Mar 95

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 10 Mar—The Sri Lankan Government is considering what action should be taken regarding the 16 police and Army captives now on a hunger strike in Jaffna, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Frank de Silva, said Thursday [9 March].

He told the media that the 15 police officers and an Army man are in a serious condition. Doctors are looking after them. The GA [Government Agent], Jaffna, has arranged for a doctor to examine the fasting captives and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) has rushed its own doctor to their aid. The IGP said he has already informed the government of the situation and the government is studying the matter. There was some talk of the parents of the fasting captives visiting Jaffna, but there was no official request, Mr. de Silva said.

The captives have been on a fast for the past two weeks. The IGP said: "the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is responsible for their safety". He hoped they would look after them well.

Tamil Leader Urges Army Not To Leave Pooneryn

BK1203084295 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1004 GMT 11 Mar 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 11 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) leader Douglas Devananda said Friday [10 March] that the government should not vacate the Pooneryn Army Camp until a durable solution to the ethnic problem is worked out and peace returns.

Saturday's 'DAILY NEWS' states he has said that the government should not weaken its position. "The EPDP and other Tamil parties welcome the government's decision to pull back the forward defence line by 500 metres from the Pooneryn road. That will enable civilians to travel to and from Jaffna unchecked by the military", Devananda said.

He said the EPDP and other Tamil parties will ask the government to remove all newly set up military and naval camps from the northern and eastern provinces. Only those that stood before the war broke out should be allowed to remain.

Under this, only the Palaly, Kayts And Elephant pass camps could remain in Jaffna and Kilinochchi.

Devananda said the LTTE is likely to drag on the peace negotiations as its leader Velupillai Prabakaran is afraid to return to the democratic process.

Minister Says Talks With LTTE Not To Drag On

BK1203082195 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0957 GMT 11 Mar 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 11 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Acting Defence Minister Col. Anuruddha Ratwatte has said that the government is not prepared to allow peace talks to drag on.

He told the dinner meeting of Foreign Correspondents Association on Thursday: "We are certainly not prepared to go on and on like this. We expect the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to come to the negotiating table. The international community is sending us encouraging signals".

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reporting the occasion quotes Col. Ratwatte as saying that the government would not be bogged down in protracted talks with the LTTE.

The report further quotes the minister thus: "We have to be ready for war. Not that we prefer war, but we are not prepared to go on and on like this".

Col Ratwatte, who was sworn in as acting defence minister yesterday morning, had visited army camps in the north and east last weekend. He asked troops to be on the alert till a peaceful solution could be worked out.

A Colombo-datelined AFP report said Col. Ratwatte had accused the LTTE of misrepresenting facts. The LTTE was trying to tell the Tamil people and the world that it was the government that wasn't responding. "The LTTE has not given a date yet for political talks. All they are asking for is another round of talks on opening a safe passage to Jaffna and other matters most of which have now been resolved", Mr. Kadirgamar [foreign minister] said.

The row now is over foreign mediation. The LTTE rejected the government's proposal of retired French diplomat Francois Michel, who had earlier served in Haiti and Ethiopia. The LTTE statement, issued on Wednesday, said Mr. Michel was a close friend of president Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga and questioned his neutrality on that basis.

Col. Ratwatte said Mr. Michel was nominated by the French Government at the request of the Foreign Ministry and the president did not know him.

Col. Ratwatte described it as immoral to misrepresent facts. But added that it may have been due to ignorance of the real facts.

Meanwhile, the latest issue of the Tamil language monthly 'Viduthalai Puligal' [Liberation Tigers] printed in Jaffna, has indicated the parameters of a solution acceptable to the Tigers. They are prepared to accept a merged northern and eastern province under a federal set-up. That unit should enjoy full autonomy.

The journal said the solution should ensure that the Tamil people could live with a sense of security and dignity.

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